

RECREATION

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Anchors to Nature

By Sydney Greenbie

U. S. Ambassador of Song

By Fairfax Downey

In Defense of Nature Study

By Lula A. Miller

Adventures in Vacation Reading

Camping—A Hobby for the Middle-Aged

By Florence D. Alden

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Recreation in Defense Time

PREPARATION for defense is our first need in the United States. Our first question regarding each undertaking is: Does it help defense? Ships, airplanes, tanks must be built, and quickly. Much that we have enjoyed that is not essential must be given up or suspended for a time.

What about recreation, education, religion? These are needed now more than ever before. In defense times life must be kept as normal as may be for children, youth and for our families. Morale for us all is fundamental. Morale is a part of defense. Italy, Russia, Germany have used recreation to the limit in attempting to build a united people, a people physically strong, a people ready to endure for their country. Surely democracies will not be less wise and foresighted.

Recreation has had, perhaps, a development in the United States beyond what has taken place in any other part of the world. And this occurred in peace times, and has been largely voted by the people out of their taxes. In the First World War, under the leadership of the Federal Government, with the cooperative help of many national societies, a great morale-building recreation movement was carried on with more than five hundred thousand people at one time helping. President Wilson, Secretary of War Baker, Secretary of the Navy Daniels, Raymond Fosdick—all testified as to the great value of this program in helping to make men and the country efficient to win the war.

The task in the immediate present is not one of war but of preparation for defense. However, the need for recreation is the same. Any cutting down of recreation, of music, drama, sports, of the community morale-building forces, weakens our country just that much for defense. The need for recreation is greater than it has been, and there ought to be found financial and other resources for increasing the program and making it a part of our defense effort. Surely in this respect our cities, our states, our nation will not be less wise than the dictator nations abroad who in times of great financial difficulty in recent years spent more rather than less for recreation.

Howard Bracher

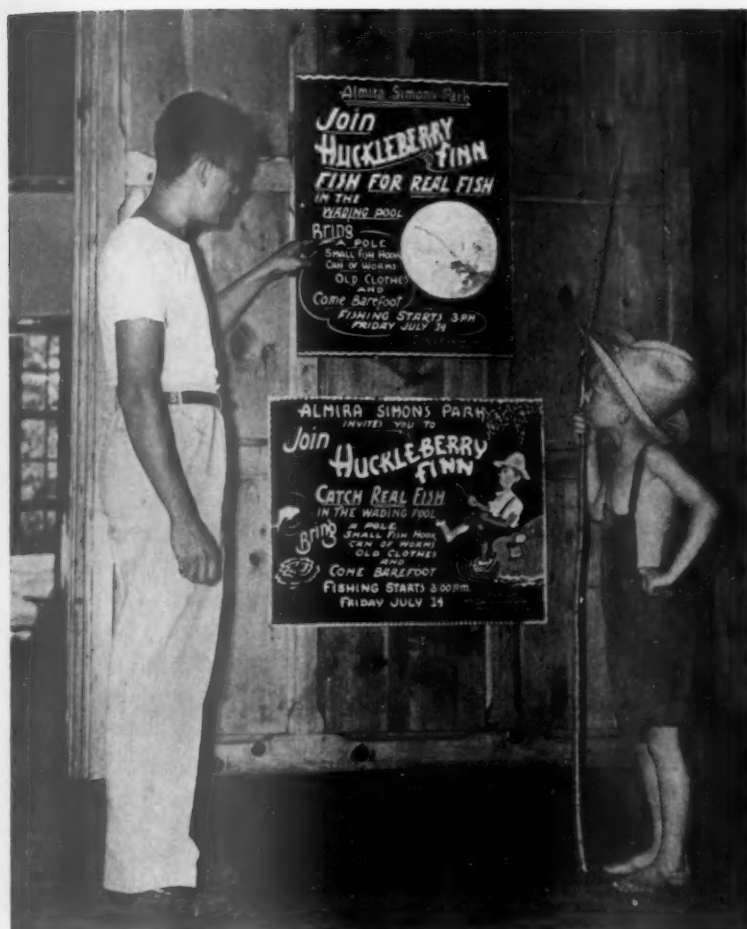
July



Photo by Charles Howard Cunningham

"We fishermen dream far more often of our favorite sport than other men of theirs." If the wonderful recreation of angling is to last indefinitely, we must abide by the

fish and game laws. For the sake of conservation, learn to put back as much as you take from nature's playground and preserve for posterity the sport of angling.



A Huck Finn Fishing Carnival

By
GEORGE SONNENLEITER
Supervisor
Almira Simons Park
Chicago, Illinois

IN THE CITY of Chicago, on the corner of Drake and Wabansia, can be found a one and a half acre plot of land housing a brick fieldhouse known as Almira Simons Park. One of the many fieldhouses of the Chicago Park District, this park has to curtail its outdoor activities due to lack of space. Because of this handicap the park supervisor and his staff are always on the lookout for new and different activities which will fit into a well-rounded park program.

In searching for a program to surmount this difficulty last summer, they evolved the idea of a Huckleberry Finn Fishing Carnival in their own little 60' x 30' wading pool. Posters were made and displayed about the neighborhood. Beside a humorous picture of Huckleberry Finn fishing by a stream, the posters urged the children to come and "catch real fish in the wading pool." They were instructed to come barefoot, wearing old clothes and carrying a can of worms and a pole with a small fish hook.

The main obstacle in the children's minds, of course, was the fact that they had never seen any fish in the wading pool, where they went wading

almost every day. But if the posters said they were to go fishing in the pool, they couldn't miss the fun. So excited preparations began.

In the meantime, the park staff had made arrangements to secure fish from the Government Pier in Lake Michigan. At dawn on the day of the Fishing Carnival, the Mayor, State Attorney, the Commissioner of Public Service (elected by the park youngsters during Youth Week), and the park staff members left the fieldhouse for Lake Michigan. With the aid of nets they began fishing earnestly from the pier. Finally they emerged with a catch of 250 small perch. They placed the fish in cans of fresh water, kept aerated by hand pumps which forced air into the cans, and the carloads of cans of fish safely traveled to Almira Simons Park.

When the fish arrived the commotion was unsurpassed. There were large numbers of boys and girls gathered around the wading pool critically trying to detect the presence of the fish they were to catch that afternoon. Youngsters were digging up worms through the community. From the stories circulated by excited children and amused

adults, it seemed evident that Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard was not bare! In addition to the prosaic worm, the children had gathered everything they thought would be particularly enticing to the eyes of a fish. Candy, spaghetti, noodles, bacon, liver, meat, radishes, gum, and "magic hooks" (baitless bent pins) were in vogue.

Although the fishing contest was not scheduled until three o'clock in the afternoon, at eleven o'clock the children began to gather—barefooted, in old clothes, with their fishing lines and bizarre bait. They began "practicing," and all over the park could be seen dry land fishermen pulling in imaginary fish with skillful flips and jerks. Even parents entered into the spirit, and many of them were instructing future Isaak Waltons on the proper techniques of casting and reeling with bamboo rods and fishing poles made of long tree branches.

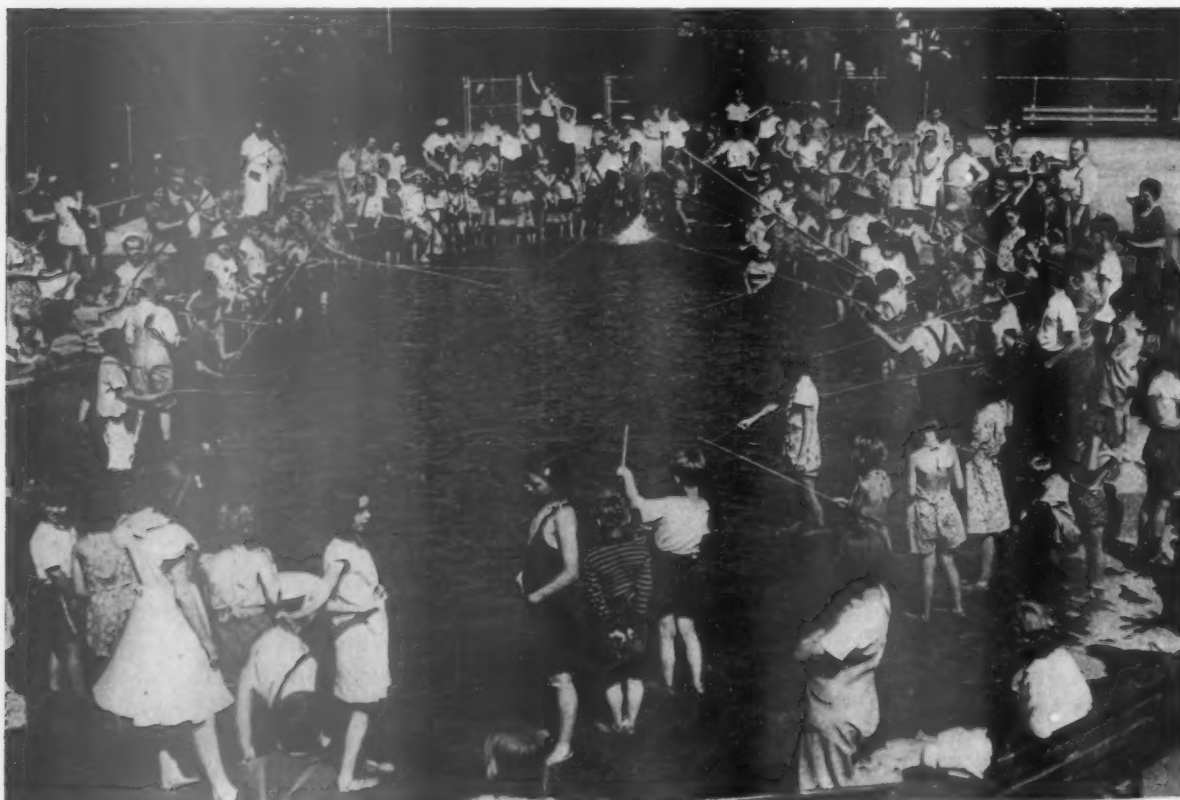
At exactly 2:30 the suspense reached its climax, for then the park supervisor ordered the fish to be placed in the wading pool. Although this was thirty minutes before starting time, the children couldn't wait and the fun began. Barefoot boys were fishing in a wading pool for the first time in

their lives. Parents and onlookers at once became cheer leaders, urging over 200 Huckleberrys on to success.

Gales of laughter were heard throughout the crowd as a Huckleberry gave excited determined yanks on his pole to land a fish which was just as determined to get away. The fishing continued for fifty-five minutes. Finally, waiting for the fish to bite became too tame a sport, and several eager, wild-eyed boys and girls bunched in on the fish. When it became apparent that "fishing control" was doomed because of the over-enthusiastic fishermen, the boys and girls were told to wrap up their lines and place their poles some distance from the pond. After the fish hooks were safely put away, the children were told that they could catch the remaining fish by hand. This caused more commotion than fishing with a line. Ducking, splashing, tugging, hooting, and yelling ensued for the remainder of the Huckleberry Fishing Carnival.

The contest ended in a hilarious mood with the dripping, disheveled youngsters trudging through the city streets, fishing poles slung over their shoulders, their fish held high for all to see.

If you have never gone fishing in a wading pool you have missed a thrilling experience!



U. S. Ambassador of Song

By FAIRFAX DOWNEY

A VISITOR at the State Department a while ago might have supposed that the Government was going into the concert tour business. Around a table were gathered representatives of our foremost musical organizations, members of the Department's Latin American staff, and delegates from six countries below the Rio Grande. The purpose of that meeting was to make music a new instrument of friendship between the American continents.

Present at the conference was a square-shouldered man in his mid-fifties, black hair turning iron gray, who has done much to prove that some of the most effective diplomatic notes are musical ones. For more than a quarter of a century Marshall Bartholomew has served as a United States ambassador of song, known as such in a score of countries. He has led singing from Sweden to Siberia, and has brought together student choruses from all over Europe in musical good fellowship. Four European tours by the Yale Glee Club, under his direction, were returned by visits here of University singers from Hungary, Finland, and Norway. His songs-across-the-sea efforts interrupted by war, he now turns toward South America.

Bartholomew trained the song leaders who in 1917-19 helped regiments through long hikes. He was a pioneer in community singing, in the organization of factory choruses, and in musical therapy in hospitals. His collections of American folk songs are noted. His own compositions are sung in schools and colleges from Maine to Manila.

Born in Belleville, Illinois, in 1885, he had his first piano lessons from his mother, a pianist of concert calibre. At Yale his interest in music increased, he sang in the glee club, revolutionized student song leading, won a prize for musical composition. After graduation he taught two years at Haverford School and turned out an oratorio which earned him his Bachelor's Degree in Music at the University of Pennsylvania, an opera, and other vocal compositions. Then in 1910 he went to Berlin for study.

Marshall Bartholomew, firmly convinced "there is too much talking in the world today and too little singing," plans to sail southward this summer to blaze a trail for future generations of student singers in all the Americas. Singers, old and young, will wish him success.

In 1914 he returned to the United States and volunteered for Y.M.C.A. war relief work, drawing the tough assignment of Siberia. In Russian camps he found such hopeless misery among German and Austro-Hungarian prisoners that suicides were a daily occurrence. Bartholomew

traveled 1200 miles, across the border into China, to bring back ether. Homesickness and the monotony of confinement in those remote wastes, even more than outright brutality, were wearing men down to the point where life seemed no longer worth living.

Music might help, Bartholomew thought, so he organized glee clubs and choirs. Skilled craftsmen in the Hungarian prison camp carved instruments. Bartholomew had strings. There might have been no bows had not a *troika* drawn by three horses visited the camp one day with a load of provisions. When the *troika* left, its nags were minus most of their tails, and fiddlers had begun tuning up.

"Then," Bartholomew says, "I witnessed the miracle of music—its power to lift men out of despair, physical suffering, homesickness, and hatred." Suicides in the prison camps almost ceased.

One prison commandant, a retired Russian general, was persuaded to attend a celebration that Christmas Eve. He came with his staff to one of the crowded, 800-men barracks, sunk half underground for protection against the fierce Siberian cold. A small Christmas tree had been stuck in a barrel in the midst of the densely packed prisoners. Bartholomew stepped in front of his singers—Germans, Austrians, Hungarians and their Russian guards.

"There is one song all can sing tonight," he declared, raising his eloquent hands with the infectious smile that makes him a natural leader. Then he led them in *Silent Night, Holy Night*.

They sang, each in his own tongue, but all united in the beloved melody. When its last note died away, tears were streaming from the Russian commandant's eyes. He spoke in halting, broken German.

"This is the second year of the war," he said, "and tonight is the first time I have been able to forget that you and I are supposed to be enemies."

From then on the prison camp was a changed place. Hospital care improved, and the mail from home came through more regularly. Between prisoners and captors was understanding and friendliness.

When the United States entered the war, Bartholomew was called home and made director of the music department of the National War Work Council. Part of his task was to organize the schools which trained 30,000 song leaders for the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. It is no mean feat to induce a lot of men to forget their shyness, open up their throats and let go with a more or less musical noise. Often the only attraction in "Y" huts and mess halls was mass singing. In camps at home and with the A.E.F. in France and England, Bartholomew observed again and again what stirring marching songs and the simple songs of home can do for morale, fatigue, and war nerves.

One night in New York in the hot summer of 1919, Bartholomew was talking over the success of war singing with a fellow song leader, Robert Lawrence.

"Call 'Fire' anywhere in a town," said Lawrence, "and take the first thousand people who run out to see where the trouble is, and I'll bet we could found a choral society right on the spot. Any bunch of people anywhere."

Bartholomew laughed and suggested:

"Why not try it now, right here in New York?"

They chose for the experiment the city's Hell's Kitchen slum district. If people would sing there, they'd sing anywhere. They moved a piano out into the street. Bartholomew played it. The towering, 6-foot-4 Lawrence climbed up on top of his car, while a curious crowd gathered to see what these two nuts were up to. A song was launched.

Hesitantly a few young voices joined. More children, men, and women chimed in. Soon police reserves were compelled to rope off the street, for 5000 had jammed into it. A grand time had been had by all when the two exhausted experimenters at last broke away and departed amid cheering.

Something had been started. Two small trucks, called sing wagons, were put into operation, each carrying a piano and a screen on which a stereopticon lantern flashed the words of songs. They made the rounds of fifteen centers established in congested districts, and by midsummer 20,000

people a week were lifting voices in *America, The Battle Hymn of the Republic, My Old Kentucky Home, Mother Machree*, anything they felt like singing. Politicians and other speech-makers were never permitted to hitch their stars to the sing wagons. This was for fun, nor was there any mistaking the joy brought to thousands. How vastly the morale of neighborhoods was improved was testified by welfare workers and policemen.

The tide of community singing spread from the cities into rural districts—to country fairs and grange meetings. It was even strong enough to sweep through industry, where the triumph of the machine age over handicraft has almost killed the singing spirit. Bartholomew points out that the miller's song had vanished in the depths of the modern grain elevator; that chugging donkey engines raising ship's anchors had drowned the voice of the chantey; that spinning songs have no chance amid the din of textile factories.

Financed by philanthropists, Bartholomew set out to bring song back to men at work. His experience in a Connecticut brass factory is typical. Asking for a fifteen-minute recreation period for singing, officials told him that shutting down the machinery would cost hundreds of dollars; but they let him have his way. He put one of his young leaders on a barrel in the yard, and soon the singing was in full swing. Workers were so noticeably freshened that the scheme was given a trial. As a result accidents were considerably cut down, for eighty-five to ninety per cent of them had been attributable to afternoon fatigue and carelessness. Such demonstrations of the commercial value of singing induced scores of companies to include the expense in their budgets. Glee clubs often comprise executives, clerks and workers in the shops, and Bartholomew repeatedly has proved that music is an oil that lubricates industrial relations.

He learned, too, that music could heal the sick, bring peace of mind to the discouraged, and even work miracles in the minds of the mentally deranged. He accepted the conductorship of the Junior League Glee Club of New York City on condition that it would sing in hospitals. Regularly he leads the chorus in concerts broadcast throughout the buildings of the Medical Center. Trios, quartets, and octets from the club sing in other New York hospitals with notable success.

Bartholomew has spent vacations collecting American folk songs—songs of mountains, plantations, cattle range, and the sea. Old salts qua-

vered for him chanteys of clipper-ship days. He made expeditions into the southern Appalachians where, among descendants of Scotch, Irish, and English immigrants of the 17th and 18th centuries, folk music is valued as an heirloom. From children to grandparents, the mountaineers obliged with songs such as *Cindy* or *Grandma Grunts* with its chorus:

*"Whistling girls and crowing hens
Always come to some bad ends.
Boys can whistle. Girls must sing."*

University students, Bartholomew and his colleagues noted, often become officials in key positions of a nation and wield an influence out of all proportion to their numbers. If as undergraduates they visit and make friends with students of other countries, will not their foreign policy later on be more friendly? And what better way is there to form such bonds than for student choruses of different nations to sing together?

That is the theory behind the International Student Musical Council, formed by men associated with the University Glee Club of New York. Organized by Bartholomew, its membership grew to 170 college glee clubs, with more than 6000 students taking part annually in regional contests or festivals. The group's founders from Germany, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Latvia, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States went into action. Considerable negotiations and travel—Bartholomew alone has made thirty ocean crossings and visited seventeen countries—resulted in international tours and festivals for university choruses. Norway and Finland joined, and plans were made to include England, Italy, Spain, and Bulgaria. An International song book with translations was projected, so that members could understand each other's songs.

Now and then a snag was struck, such as the ruckus which nearly ruined the gathering at Munich in 1931. Learning that Polish delegates were to attend, German students refused to participate until Bartholomew appealed to the authorities of the University. The next day he beheld a strange spectacle. Out on a rock at a swimming resort, in bathing suits, were

German and Polish students in animated and friendly conversation. Singing together, they explained to him, made a lot of difference.

Bartholomew brought his own country into this musical entente by taking the Yale Glee Club on European expeditions. During four 10,000-mile tours, the club sang before royalty, hereditary and musical, diplomatic corps and fellow students. To receive American hospitality in return came student choruses from Hungary, Finland, and Norway. Again Bartholomew paved the way, arranged manifold details. The tours were successful musically, financially, in friendships formed. Given more time, their weight might have counted.

Even now Bartholomew feels that the effort was not altogether in vain. A man who believes in an idea as strongly as does Marshall Bartholomew, who has given much of his life to it, will not give it up. That is why his summons to the State Department conference on exchanges of music with Latin America was so welcome. The olive branch can still be entwined with the musical staff.

Assistant Secretary of State, A. A. Berle, Jr., remarked at that meeting that twenty-one American republics are trying to evolve a system of co-operative peace, a system that has given more peace to more people, over a larger territory, and for a longer time, than has been known in any other period of history. "This means," Mr. Berle declared, "that the American republics must understand each other's ideals and civilization. They must know something about each other's art, and music, and books."

Bartholomew, firmly convinced that "there is too much talking in the world today, too little singing," plans to sail southward this summer to blaze a trail for future generations of student singers in all the Americas. Singers, old and young, will wish him a successful journey.

"Robert Henri, the painter, somewhere wrote: 'An artist should paint a picture like a man going over the top of a hill singing' . . . I think of the millions of young and old in 20,000 communities in our own land who go about their morning duties, and afternoon and evening, building this nation like men and women going over the top of a hill singing. And I pray again that they and we will have the will to nurture and protect the things of the mind as well as the things of the pocketbook."—From American Library Association Bulletin.

"Not only life but the whole universe is an expression of rhythm. No doubt the poet had this in mind when he wrote about 'the music of the spheres.' And no doubt it is the meaning of the Bible phrase about the morning stars singing together." From the *Dance of Life* in "Parade."



Paul Parker Photo

Nature Advising in Girl Scouting

By MARIE GAUDETTE
Nature Adviser, Program Division
Girl Scouts, Incorporated

THE GIRL SCOUT organization has set up four goals for itself in relation to its nature program. It is our hope that participation in nature activities will offer each Girl Scout an opportunity to:

Appreciate and interpret her natural environment—whether this be city, town, or country.

Develop her powers of observation, investigation, and reason.

Realize her debt to and responsibilities toward all other living things. This we hope will lead to an intelligent conception of conservation due to an understanding and appreciation of the balance of nature.

Enjoy the out-of-doors as the result of increased knowledge and understanding. This, it is hoped, will result in more outdoor activity in the form of hikes and camping with an increased respect for property and a keener appreciation of proper outdoor manners.

We have tried to outline and interpret the Girl Scout nature program so that it will contribute to the knowledge and enjoyment of *living* things and the *way* they live which is the basis of any good nature study program. Obviously this is opposed to the indoor study of outdoor things with the emphasis on classification and collections. This is not a new interpretation of the Girl Scout nature program, but our recent revision of the suggested activities in this field has been done with an effort

to further this idea. The progress we have made over the years in the nature program is largely due to the ceaseless efforts of Dr. Bertha Chapman Cady who was for many years the Nature Adviser. Dr. Cady, in writing on the Girl Scout nature program some years ago, said:

"The tendency has been all in the same direction—away from rote, from standardization, from the mere acquisition of the names of things, from the acquiring of 'collections' to stow away for moth and dust and decay. More and more our progress has been toward the understanding of the living thing; toward an appreciation of its beauty, without desire for possession; toward preserving a memory or record of the object through picture, line, or word, instead of possessing its dead form; in short, toward conservation in every sense of all beneficent or harmless life, toward a love of things as they live, and a search for an understanding of their function in the great scheme of nature.

"If we can but stir the curiosity, start the search, and free the imagination for the common, everyday nature objects, we have given youth one of the greatest possible gifts. Through eye and ear, through touch, taste, and smell, life is broadened, and this means the acquiring of as great an amount of first-hand experience as possible."

Nature study lends itself to group activity as well as to individual activity, and, since it is usually more enjoyable to do things with other persons of like interests, the Girl Scout organization hopes that group participation will be emphasized whenever and wherever possible. We mention this here because there has been a tendency at times, in our organization and in others, to let

those interested in nature become "lone wolves" and thereby miss the toning and broadening (we might say, chastening!) effect that working with other would-be "naturers" would give.

The Leaders

Our volunteer leaders carry the burden, directly or indirectly, of interesting the girls in nature. It is needless to say that only a small percentage of the 25,000 leaders have much background in nature study, but they proceed valiantly and do a good job. They use the nature resources of the community, such as the people who *do* know, the libraries, institutions, and organizations. But it takes a little time to impress our leaders with the fact that a great amount of knowledge in the nature field is not necessary in order that the girls in the troop may not only become interested in the subject but will take a few steps in further knowledge along with the leader. It has been our experience in nature that *no* knowledge of the subject on the part of the leader makes it very difficult for her to evince enough enthusiasm to attract the girls. But a little knowledge and the wish to know much more and to help others to know seem to be almost an ideal condition! Sometimes considerable knowledge is a hindrance instead of a help, in that questions are often answered that should, in all fairness to the person concerned, be left to the fun of discovery.

The Badge Areas

There are eleven badge areas in the Girl Scout nature program. Each one is in a little package by itself, and all are properly labelled with such words as "birds," "trees," "stars," and so on. This segregating of the subjects is for convenience and clarity, but we ask our people to remember that a person interested in nature will not find it too easy to keep everything in such orderly pigeon-holes! A bird perches on a tree and the tree often takes on as much importance as the bird. A snake eats a

frog and they both become a matter of importance to the nature student. To help make some kind of a tie between these nature subjects an effort has been made to list one activity in each badge that will lead directly and obviously into another in the nature field.

We felt it wise to drop out statements in the nature program that would say that this number or that number of things must be identified, and have simply indicated in each nature subject the number that would be fair for most parts of the country. This occasionally causes confusion because many people are in the habit of being told just how many objects must be known or names learned. It is our belief, and the belief of many who work with nature, that *knowledge gained from watching or caring for some living thing over a period of time will be considered of more value than identifying a given number of things.* The actual decision as to volume of work on a given subject is left to the individual girl and the person who is helping her. This, we hope, will allow for the girl's own mental capacity and intellectual pace.

We try to keep our conception of nature a broad one including all things—bears, birds, ink, glass, sheep, vanilla, even parsnips! This makes it possible to use almost anything to stimulate an interest in this field. It seems difficult for many



Photo by Ruth Alexander Nichols

people to realize that a nature program can be carried on in the largest city and without the aid of public parks, though they are of tremendous help. This fact has made it necessary for us to gear the suggested activities in the nature field to urban possibilities as well as suburban. To carry out the real interpretation of nature study there must be freedom enough in the choice of activities to make the work practical and enjoyable in every given community or situation.

Because the majority of people know little about nature, it is easy to see that help in the subject is of paramount importance in the mind of every Girl Scout leader—help for herself to expose her group to the subject and help for members of her group who progress beyond her own knowledge. Not only is a leader concerned with helping her group to become acquainted with the things in nature, but she is faced with the problem of finding as many channels as possible through which an interest in nature may be turned, directly or indirectly, to the betterment of the community, such as tree planting, flower preservation, gardening, and bird protection.

Making the Introduction to Nature

It is probably well known to many people who work with nature that many children (too many!) have a decided aversion toward anything labelled "nature." We have our own ideas of why this is so, but have no space to present our "great pearls of wisdom" in this little article! However, it does mean that a leader has to be more than ordinarily watchful to pick up chance questions, remarks, and occasions to introduce nature into the lives of her little angels! Here follow a few instances of the way things got started in some groups:

A group of girls became interested in medicinal plants because the leader, while on a hike, mentioned that country people used tansy to drive away mosquitoes. The girls got in touch with a physician in the neighborhood who, for a hobby, was studying the medicinal plants in that vicinity. He is now their teacher and they his able and interested helpers in the study.

While down on hands and knees on a lawn looking for a lost bobbie pin, a small group of girls noticed a few ants and in a short time forgot the bobbie pin. The latest report is that they are now enthusiastic observers of insect life!

While on a hike, a girl was sitting under a tree and a squirrel dropped a nut on her head. This was the beginning of many things. Perhaps it is

necessary at times, as in the case of Newton, for something to fall on the shell that protects the human brain before the bump of curiosity gets started! There is not room here for the whole process in this particular instance—but the first evidence of curiosity was examining the nut and finding the squirrel's tooth marks. The final celebration was a hike to the same site and the talking over of all the adventures with animals since the first two nuts came in contact with one another!

We have not found the secret of making each one of our 75,000 members (great and small!) an enthusiastic nature student and, of course, we know that would be a hopeless aim. But we do want everyone to have the opportunity to know more about it and see its relationship to all other fields of interest such as arts and crafts, music, dramatics, community life, and literature. More than all else, we want them to find a way to put such knowledge to use for the community. This is, however, not going to be possible unless we find ways and means, or shall we say methods and procedures, to make an interest in, and understanding of, nature a vital and living experience.

For our parting words we would like to quote from the chapter on "Nature Study and Science" in *Creative Group Education** by S. R. Slavson:

"The human body (as well as the bodies of lower animals) is organized for pursuit because survival depends upon it. The nature and development of culture reveals the same characteristics on the psychological plane, and the behavior of children confirms the existence of this pursuit tendency. This tendency, because of its basic nature, must be one of the foundations of a naturalistic education. Science, being chiefly a pursuit subject and one that whets natural curiosity, offers important possibilities for character education. But in order that it may serve these ends, it must conform with the discovery drives and be initiated by the pupil rather than consist of adult teaching.

"One of the greatest delights of man is derived from discovery. In addition, discovery begets power and greater control over environment. It also makes a very strong appeal to the ego, and increases self-esteem. The acquisition of all knowledge should, therefore, occur through *original discovery* on the part of the learner, even if it is only *re-discovery* from the point of view of existing knowledge."

Another quotation from the same book.

"In the maze of experiences that make up the formal and informal education of the growing personality, a feeling-relationship with nature is a supreme necessity. Native impulses of man, as a heritage of earlier life and environment, are directed toward the expanse of the fields and forests, the setting and coloring of the sun, and

(Continued on page 268)

* Published by the Association Press, New York City, 1937.

Cycling for Sociability

By ROZELLE HOLMAN
Superintendent of Recreation
Athens, Georgia

THE CYCLING CLUB of Athens is unique in that—it was organized purely for fellowship. Most clubs are interested in racing, or cross-country riding, or hosteling. In Athens it was found that a great number of young married people enjoyed riding because of the social values that went with it. The great diversity of their occupations and schedules made it important that the rides should not last too long nor cover too much ground.

A beginning was made with a nucleus of thirteen, who met one Wednesday afternoon during July 1939 and laid plans for the formation of a cycling club. Officers were elected after an initial ride of about ten miles, and a publicity program was begun. Though the appeal had been primarily to adults, with the time for riding planned to accommodate them as much as possible, there was soon an influx of college age young people. It was found that Wednesday afternoon was a good time for everyone, as the stores were closed on that afternoon during the summer. Sunday morning rides were also scheduled, with the group meeting at a central place at sunrise and returning in time for church services.

Club Organization

The form of club organization was purposely made very loose so that the club would be a flexible instrument. Instead of having regular dues assess-

Because bicycling is one of the most effective and popular ways of getting people out into the country to enjoy nature, even though the avowed purpose may be sociability, just a good time, or some other objective, we believe that an article on cycling has a place in an issue devoted largely to nature recreation!

ments were made for special events, or, if food was to be provided, each person often brought something along. A committee was appointed to handle publicity and to notify members as to where and when rides were contemplated. It performed very efficient service. Within a month the club had grown to fifty members, and at the end of the season there were sixty-five on the roll. Average attendance on the rides was around thirty-five, though there were several occasions on which the entire roster was present. This is not as low an average as might seem apparent, for many of the students went home for week ends, and many of the married members had irregular work schedules which prevented them from coming out every time.

At the beginning, very few long rides were attempted, as most of the members had not ridden for years and had to get in condition slowly. There

are a number of very scenic roads around Athens, however, that can be covered in two hours, and these were all explored pretty thoroughly. As weeks went by the club became more adventurous and enjoyed a number of rides on some of the hilly roads which are typical of this section of the Piedmont. A number of special events were planned to add interest to the rides, such as watermelon cuts, wiener roasts,

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Some Adventures in Vacation Reading

The last day of school! How eagerly each child awaits with breathless anticipation that longed-for time! To him it means no teachers, no lessons, no books—just endless days which are his own. At first this new-found freedom is thoroughly enjoyed; but a week passes, then two weeks, and the greatly desired vacation begins to pall. The child needs a new adventure. In some communities there are interesting vacation reading projects provided by libraries which are helping to meet this need.

Westward Ho!

By JANE KITCHELL

Vincennes, Indiana, Public Library

IN THIS MODERN age it is difficult for boys and girls to visualize life without motor cars, movies or radios. Today the spirit of the pioneer, the glory of frontier days, is fading. Among the unique and romantic figures that have marked the development of the far west is the American cowboy, who will always be a hero among young Americans. Some thrilling stories of this period are still greatly discredited, yet his life was a series of striking and unusual themes.

In order that this atmosphere might not entirely fade, the Vincennes Public Library planned for

the vacation period—a time to let off youthful steam—an intimate study of "Hair Pants Heroes" designed to give to the children what has been preserved of the far west that is still useful and beautiful. They see bucking broncos in the movies, know how cowboys dress, but cannot tell you why he wears chaps or bandanas. Back of it all is a reason, but the reason they do not know—interesting stories they have yet to read and enjoy.

The Main and North Branch libraries became the gateway to vacationland, as well as the source of advance information for parents and teachers.

The cowpunchers were divided into four groups, Bronco Busters, Buckaroos, Wild Rovers and Rough Riders, according to grades. At the time

of registration, the boys were given chaps,

A demonstration, at the "rodeo," of the art of book roping was an exciting part of the program



the girls divided skirts, made by the WPA project which the library had sponsored for some fourteen months. The suits were made from coffee and bean sacks donated by several wholesale houses and grocery firms. Large straw hats were secured through the cooperation of the Kresge stores, each child purchasing his own hat for a nominal sum. Branding symbols made from bright colored cardboard were given for each book roped (read), which were clipped to the chaps or skirts, squares, circles, bars and triangles, each group having its own brand.

It was not long before the costumes took on a great deal of color. To stimulate a better book report, each week the child submitting the best report from each group was presented with a colored handkerchief with the brand of the special group stamped upon it.

At the close of the registration, Wagons Westward moved over the downtown streets led by the Chuck Wagon drawn by two dappled grays, the prize possession of one of the few remaining sales barns. (The Chuck Wagon carries the food the cowboys eat when on a round-up, pots, pans and kettles; the tail piece, which is let down, serves as a shelf.) This was followed by mounted cowboys, a float demonstrating book branding, and yelping, singing cowhands, guitars and harmonicas, reviewed by many adults who gave up their favorite radio programs to see the westerners on parade.

A Round-Up was held each Saturday morning, and at that time Foreman, Bosses, and Wranglers were selected for the best book reports, most books read and honorable mention. An intimate study was made of the life of the cowboy. It was learned "the profession of cowpunching reached its greatest height after the Civil War." The cowboy was reckless, fearless, yet possessed of chivalry. "He fought back the Indians, to him is credited, more than to the gold seekers or Uncle Sam's soldiers, the conquest of the west."

A Will Rogers day was held when his life, his achievements, and his memorials were discussed by the children in a most creditable manner. Cowboy lingo was studied. "Home on the Range" and "Comin' 'Round the Mountain" were the theme songs. Slides were shown each week through the courtesy of the Chicago Public Library which greatly added to the enjoyment and popularity of the occasion. Storytelling was part of each Round-Up; the tall tales of Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, one of the greatest cowboys of all ages, Holling's

Book of Cowboys and Will James' stories were always popular.

The project culminated after eight weeks in a rodeo at Gregg Park for the children who had read ten books and were entitled to a diploma. The shelter house made an ideal ranch house. With much gusto Torky Chorbojian and Billy Ann Herr, mounted on ponies, were acclaimed the Champion Book Roper and the Sweetheart of the Rodeo; the cowboys circled around and sang to her "I Want to Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart." Mayor Taylor and the Park Commissioner broke all rules and regulations by allowing several trick ponies to perform some feats upon the green. Rodeo games of Bull in the Corral, Look out for the Wouser, Lariat Throw, Tenderfoot Relay, Ride the Rail and Chuck Wagon Races were played, and each rancher was delighted with a Lightnin' Jim ice cream bar appropriately wrapped in a cowboy wrapper.

A "Rootin', Tootin' Rodeo"!

Some 350 diplomas were awarded Book Week at a joint meeting of all Parent-Teachers Associations in the city, when a rodeo was staged. It was no place for city slickers, just a "cowboy's rootin', tootin' rodeo" where plaid shirts, gay bandanas, pistols and lariats were much in evidence. Here is the picture:

As the curtain rises the stage is set with bleachers, a ticket office and a corral to shoot the books through to be roped and branded. There is much noise, demonstration of rope spinning and whip cracking, cowboys presenting ten book brands for a seat upon the bleachers. When all are assembled the Champion and Sweetheart are presented, the entire assembly singing "I Want to Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart." Jane Duffy, an outstanding cowgirl, outlined the project to the parents, closing with a splendid recital of "Aren't We Lucky" which so forcibly points out how fortunate children are today in America in contrast to the war-torn world. Munro Leaf's "Watchbirds" was the book selected to be roped. A head and costume looking very much like Ferdinand the Bull were secured from a costume house and worn by two boys. After the roping and branding the characters came to life — Sniffers, Sulkers, Squirmers, Food Fussers, Bed Bawlers, along with Just Me, Greedy, Lazy, Flighty, Stubborn, cleverly impersonated by the children, presided over by two "Watchbirds." In closing, the youthful Champion denounced such characters as not being good

Americans, stating that to keep America the greatest country in the world its boys and girls must have a respect for themselves and their fellow beings, and that it is just as important to live gloriously for one's country as to die for it. Two things, it was announced, which help boys and girls to become good Americans, to "play fair" (Munro Leaf) are schools and public libraries. With the singing of "Home on the Range" the

curtain fell on what the library believes to be its most worthwhile, as well as its happiest, vacation.

Much valuable assistance was given to the library in the material donated by the Hoosier Gas Corporation from their Old Stove Round-Up without which it would have been impossible to have the project as colorful as it proved to be. The word "Old Stove" was blocked out and "Vacation" substituted. Their bright colored pennants and hand bills were used to good advantage, the programs for the rodeo being printed on the back. This work was done by our WPA project which also made more than six hundred cowboy suits and colored folders.

The library was a bunkhouse for the summer; two life-sized cowboys mounted on bucking broncos, gayly painted and cut out of beaver board guarded the entrance to the children's room. A display was made of saddles, bridles (some quite rare found in the attic of a saddlery company), steer's horns and lariats, along with a display of cowboy pictures, some by Remington.

The Cowboy Project came as a suggestion from a little lad of eight years at the close of the Trek Back to Che-Pe-Ko-Ke Project of 1938. If our work is of enough interest to children, if they enjoy it to the extent they are looking forward to the next year, if it is possible for them to create, then we believe we are beginning to accomplish what vacation reading is designed to be!

A Summer Reading Program

By ELEANOR BENDLER

IN HILLSBORO, OREGON, the need for an interesting vacation activity has been met for some of

"Here possibly is the library's fundamental task . . . to help build the tranquil strength of the people—the kind of strength that stems out from experience of the things which challenge the spirit of man. And that, among other values, is the power to enjoy the beautifully simple things—like the wind making melody in an old orchard; like glancing rain across a window; like the strength of a great painting; like the lilt and rhythm of a poem; like a song across a valley in the evening; like green leaves in April and their golden age in October; like the long, long thoughts of youth; like the words of a great man or woman coming alive again from the pages of a book."—*American Library Association Bulletin*.

our children by a new type of summer reading program which satisfies the child's desire for adventure and also stimulates an interest in reading better books. This program, as conducted by the Public Library, takes the form of reading contests. The first contest, which was held in the summer of 1936, saw the organization of a "Balloon Club." A city skyline was cut out of black paper and placed at the bottom of a

white bulletin board, and the sky above was blocked off into ten horizontal spaces. Different colored balloons, a color for each grade, were cut out. As each child read one book his name was placed on the balloon, and for each additional book his balloon went up one space, so that it took ten books to put him at the top of the board into the stratosphere. The one who first sailed to the top in each grade from a particular school won the prize—a book, while the runner-up received a notebook. Of course, in order to get credit for his book, each child had to tell the story of the book he had read to the librarian. In this way Mrs. Smith became the friend of each child and encouraged him to read further. The result was over four hundred reports.

The following summers the second and third reading contests carried the vacation readers "Around the World via the Book Route." The theme of the second contest was travel books, while the third took in any kind of adventure reading. The bulletin board was decorated with pictures of other countries. When each child read and reported on a travel book or story of another country, he was given a long traveler's ticket with his name, grade, and school printed at the top. He was credited on his ticket with the number of pages in any fiction book that he read, and double the number of pages in any non-fiction book. As he read another book the score was added on, so that it was easily seen which traveler had progressed the most miles. The tickets were long thin strips of colored paper about an inch wide with a fold division for each new book read. The tickets hung on the bulletin board showed that

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What They Say About Recreation

"IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY there will always be a wholesome respect for the amateur, especially in the spheres of recreation and of social controls. We all tend to become specialists about something or other, and this cannot be avoided. But a specialist may defeat the democratic process if he does not know that there are points of view concerning reality and importance other than his own. When the professional knows that an amateur may step forth in a crisis and excel him in finding the way toward right action, he may be said to be the kind of a specialist suitable for democratic conditions."—*Eduard Lindeman.*

"The proper use of leisure is the first line of defense in the health field."—*Dr. George S. Stevenson*, Secretary, National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

"Today there is much talk about the conservation of forests, the restoration of land, and the lengthening of the span of life. The conservation, as well as the revival, of surviving folk heritages, must also claim our attention. In giving consideration to these things, creative artists now living may find inspiration for classic music, art, dance, and drama based on the American pattern."—*Thad Thomas.*

"To serve one's fellows is to give them what they need, what they enjoy, what is worth while. And if we are in search of the final term by which all our activities and all our teachings are to be justified, we must find it among those things the having of which is good and the lack of which robs human living of its values."—*Alexander Meiklejohn.*

"One who has not known the taste of a dinner cooked over the camp fire at the end of a day's hike to some remote and lofty mountain glade, who has not lain on a deep bed of pine needles and viewed the stars through lofty tree tops, who has not reached the heart of a friend and comrade around some glowing camp fire far from civilization, has missed a lot of the joy of living and the beauty of the land in which he lives."—From *Trails Magazine.*

"Leisure to do what? To use what education we have received to do the things we enjoy doing and have been taught to do; to come into contact with the beautiful things that God has put into the world and the things that man by his skill has added; to develop more fully our gifts and aptitudes; to round off our knowledge; to experience new delights of mind and emotion; to escape the drudgery of work and the oblivion of sleep in joys of our own choosing."—*Daniel J. Lord, S. J., in Hours Off.*

"The folklore of a land constitutes the unobliterated tracks of both individuals and nationalities that have crossed and dwelt on that land."—*J. Frank Dobie.*

"Recreation as a movement in the United States has directly or indirectly influenced every individual's life. It has changed government, industry, business, education and religion. . . . Municipal, county, state and federal governments are all assuming responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of public recreation facilities. Puritanical ideas of play as a vicious waste of time are giving way to the recognition of recreation as a fundamental need in the normal development of children, and as a socially desirable mode of expression for everyone. . . . Recreation is a function of democracy."—*G. M. Gloss.*

"The final test of the value of park and recreation facilities will be found not in the record of the annual total of visitors, but rather in the record of the uses which the visitors made of the facilities provided."—*E. Dana Caulkins.*

"Spare time is the time for adventure, for the satisfaction of inner drives and yearnings which are the legitimate expression of personality. Both for his growth and security every boy and girl in his childhood and adolescent years needs an outlet for energies, a chance to play under decent circumstances with other boys and girls. Denied this opportunity, children seek and succeed in finding dangerous and illegitimate outlets. Crime or criminal conduct under such circumstances is merely the search for adventure."—From the *Handbook on Interstate Crime Control.*

A Housing Development in Durham

IN 1937 THE City of Durham, North Carolina, received as a gift from O. B. Wagner and J. F. Barfield, a sixteen acre tract of land which was turned over to the Recreation Commission for the development of an area that would best meet the needs of the public. Realizing that a nature program is a very definite part of recreation, and that bird study is a definite part of a nature program, the city decided to devote this tract entirely to the preservation of wild bird life. This is one of the few park areas used exclusively for this purpose, and it has aided tremendously in fulfilling the ever-growing demand for the facilities necessary in the pursuit of such a worth-while leisure-time activity.

The Sanctuary not only provides food and shelter for

But only birds need apply for houses in this very exclusive colony!

By JOHN CAMPBELL
National Recreation Association

literally thousands of birds, but it is in itself a spectacular display of nature as well. Through it flows a sparkling stream that divides the area into almost two equal sections of open fields surrounded by beautiful pine edges. These lowlands are dotted with group plantings of shrubbery

and flowers and are joined with rustic bridges so that the creation of Mother Nature is left undisturbed. It is a place of peace and tranquility, despite the fact that it is located within the limits of the hustle and bustle of the city.

Nearly all types of birdhouses are located throughout the park, and numerous feeding stations have been erected to supply adequate food for the birds. Many of the birdhouses are secured from the annual birdhouse

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Children of the city's playgrounds supply birdhouses for the trees of the sanctuary



Our Tin Can Gardens

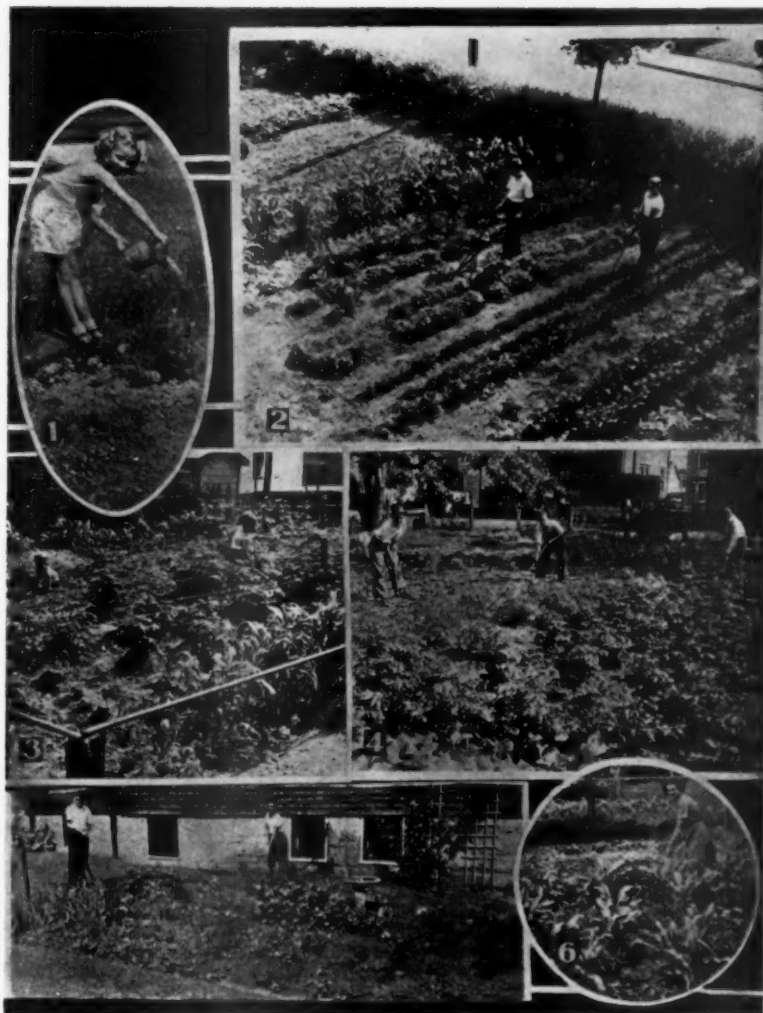
The authors, who are enthusiastic boosters for gardens, believe that if there is any perfect recreation gardening may well be a worthy candidate for the accolade! For it is a hobby, so they tell us, that "carries its riders far and well, and many side roads will be open to them."

EARLY IN MARCH, 1936, WPA took charge of recreation in Fall River, an industrial city of 115,000 people. The School Committee and the custodian of school buildings were sponsors of the project. It became necessary to organize over two hundred workers, for the most part inexperienced, to operate more than thirty centers, indoors and outdoors. And yet it was decided that gardening must be included, not casually but as a complete program. Time was short, skilled leadership was lacking, but the children and the soil were there, both warming up fast. The thing had to be done and it was. By April first over a hundred gardens were under way. By May first 215 had been started.

The central plan laid down for 1936 has worked successfully in practice for four years and will be followed this year. In the four years 954 gardens have resulted from the plan, of which 724 were carried through to completion. How many more have resulted from these nobody knows, for like the atomic bombs of Mr. Welles gardeners set off other gardeners!

The First Hurdle Is Passed!

After a survey of personnel it was found that the writers of this article alone had had experience or training in gardening, and only one of



By JOSEPH F. CASEY
and
STANLEY F. VINECOMBE
WPA Recreation Project
Fall River, Massachusetts

them could be spared for field work. Six women and men had had personal gardening experience of varying worth. So leadership was the first hurdle and the highest one.

The leadership problem was solved by calling for volunteers from the general staff to learn gardening. Instruction sheets covering the essential phases of the prospective program were prepared. The chosen leaders were given a short intensive course in theory, followed by field demonstration and practice. After this each leader selected the site for his own model garden, which had to be approved by the program director, and prepared it for sowing according to the routine established.

In the meantime, at every indoor center the leaders had formed their clubs and the members had chosen officers and selected club names. Mental games based upon gardening and discussion of plans occupied the clubs until the weather had broken and the leaders had their model gardens ready for sowing.

While the club members were having their sites approved and were busy spading and raking, the leaders were busy with their own sowing. And so on throughout the season. From the first it was a hare and hounds race with leaders keeping one jump ahead of their club members.

For young beginners it was decided that twenty-five square feet of garden were enough to tend adequately the first year. This is our basic division, with larger gardens multiples of it, so we had all fertilizer and lime packaged in one pound lots, which is about the right amount for this area of new ground. Older and apparently abler members were allotted two or more basic divisions.

Sowings were decided by individual aptitudes, also by consideration of the probability of an individual remaining a gardener during the hot summer days after school closing.

Everyone Helped

The city finance board granted us money for fertilizer, lime and seeds. The city real estate department and a private corporation allowed us the use of the grounds of two abandoned textile mills, with water and watchmen, for community gardens for the neighboring club members whose dwelling yards were impossible. The largest community garden included eighty plots. Interested people and dealers augmented our supplies with seeds, plants, summer bulbs and a few tools. The tool problem, however, has always remained troublesome. Each club tried to buy one of each of the larger tools and each of these would travel to fifteen or twenty gardens in turn.

Where We Gardened

Where possible, gardens were located in the yards of dwellings. This almost invariably brought in members of the family and other residents as converts, orthodox or independent. Members without yard facilities who were far from the community gardens grouped together by arrangement on private land.

The search for land drove many boys to establish gardens in places which ordinary practice would condemn as hopeless, such places, for ex-

ample, as ash dumps. So many old cans and other trash had to be cleared from these sites that we dubbed them "tin can" gardens and adopted them as our symbol, though our clubs also included many members who had the best of advantages and consequent results. The "tin can" gardens were all big producers, which says much for aged coal ash in gardens.

Since that first hectic year we have modified, expanded and contracted various phases of our program, naturally, as experience or necessity dictated.

A Few of Our Activities

We have found that most beginners have trouble raising flowers from seed in the open ground available to them. So we have secured space in a hothouse for starting the more difficult species for the less competent, as well as tomato plants for all.

In 1937 and 1938 we were flooded with requests for advice to elder gardeners. We did what we could. We added an advisory service for public or semi-public institutions. At the local tuberculosis hospital we installed and filled boxes and helped interested patients to sow and tend them.

Our leaders are now selected about the middle of February, about the time when our hothouse preparations for the coming spring are started. Clubs get underway indoors late in the month or in early March, for radishes can be started late that month. We have added some indoor work in pot plant culture, but lack of facilities limits this. A simple primer of plant culture was prepared for us by the garden columnist of the local newspaper and is distributed in quantity in late winter.

During March we are able to make use of a few improvised cold and hot frames for starting lettuce and cabbage. Second-hand loose bricks and second-hand sash are used. In March and April we conduct garden forums and discussions for outside organizations, which is about the only way we can afford to give time to adults in general. We encourage them, as we do our club members, to plant both flowers and vegetables.

Our mimeographed instruction sheets now number nine, most of them devised by us, but several based upon articles in periodicals. We make a practice of passing around other helpful printed material and make frequent inspections. Club members like to be inspected and all members are listed and graded, with a detailed assay of their gardens.

During the gardening season the keeping of scrapbooks is encouraged. We have held only one show, for which a dealer provided prizes of garden equipment. We give no prizes at all and have never seen the need of any, and we are well aware of many disadvantages. We do distribute choice seedlings to progressive club members. There are no charges, and expenditures by members are voluntary.

In the fall we sow all gardens, where this is practicable, with winter rye for conditioning and fertilizing.

Into the discussion which has developed in some quarters as to whether the spirit of competition should be fostered in gardening, we draw attention to our statement that we see no need for prizes, are even against them, and then state that the utilization of the competitive spirit is one of the leader's greatest aids. Our leaders try to place two private gardens near enough to each other so that progress is compared, but never obviously.

Our guiding principle in selecting club members—for the requests always have exceeded facilities—is a missionary one. Gardening lasts most people for life and is a form of recreation that stands on its own feet, needing no outside supervision once it becomes a habit. Consequently we try to include each year as many new members as possible, turning the old members loose as soon as they are experienced. Many set up gardens of their own accord. As one old amateur phrased it for us, if you "catch them young and start them right" the resulting benefit to the individual in physical and emotional health is incalculable.

Future Plans

This year we hope to combine in one venture the advantages of camping and of gardening. It is by no means assured, but as soon as circumstances allow we intend to establish a community garden in a natural setting with overnight camping facilities for one third of the gardening group in rotation every two days. For camp gardens, we believe, would add a wagon to a hobby already full of life and vigor. Its passengers would be carried more certainly toward that reserve security so valued in

France and at last reaching appreciation here—that partnership with God's earth which has always cushioned the blows of economic adversity. It is, at least, an easily and pleasurably attained form of insurance against the disaster of industrial inadequacy. Such a fortunate result might well be an economic byproduct of what is essentially a real recreation for the average city person. The recreational value, however, is primary, for we know that the things we really live by are those creative things we do by choice—an increasingly difficult achievement in a world growing ever more complex.

Statistics and Commentary

	Gardens		Seeds Furnished		Cost to City
	Started	Completed	Flower	Vegetable	
1936	215	160	5	11	14.53
1937	470	300	10	14	49.22
1938	159	154	3	11	27.78
1939	110	110	3	11	19.57

NOTE: Cost includes fertilizer, lime and winter rye.

Largest garden: 7,500 square feet, 1939.

Smallest garden: 4 square feet, 1937.

Most vegetables included in one garden: 14, 1937.

Most flowers included in one garden: 8, 1937.

Fewest vegetables included in one garden: 2, 1937.

Fewest flowers included in one garden: 3, 1937.

Most transplantings: 22,150 in 1937.

Greatest extent of cultivated area: $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres in 1937.

Fertilizer: 5-8-7 (All purpose). Lime: Hydrated.

Age of club members: Boys, 6-21. Girls, 7-18.

Average 12-13.

Oldest registered age (not a member of a club): 52.

Proportions of plantings: Vegetables, 80 per cent.

Flowers, 20 per cent.

Hours of leadership: April 180, May 360, June

360, July, August and September 135.

Varying yearly totals reflect leadership facilities. Our recreation project has shrunk from 220 members in 1936 to 65 at present. We plan to have the same number of gardens in 1940 as in 1939.

The number of gardens completed, that is,

brought through to harvest or successful display, is indicative of the increased skill in the craft of the leaders we have retained from year to year, also of their keener estimation of applicants. Besides these two factors, groups handled by one leader are now smaller, as the club leaders are available for gardening only

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"The returns that one gets from a garden are of varied kinds. There are the material products—flowers, vegetable, fruits—to be enjoyed through the several senses and thereby doubly enjoyed. There is the physical benefit and enjoyable recreation to be gained from garden work. There is the pride of ownership of something fine and beautiful, and the inspiration of working hand in hand with nature in creating it. . . . And always there is the well-merited satisfaction of accomplishing something that benefits the community—of taking a step, however small, toward that noble goal—a more beautiful America."—E. L. D. Seymour in *The Garden Encyclopedia*.

Dramatics Come to Life

By MARGARET E. MULAC

Supervisor

Department of Parks and Public Property
Cleveland, Ohio

THE LITTLE FAIRY, dressed in a simple gingham dress but wearing a silver headband which indicated her authority in fairyland, stretched out her glittering wand, waved it very slowly over the heroine's head as she said in a slightly frightened voice: "I have given you your wish!"

The Cleveland City Playground Drama Tournament was off to a thrilling start!

Of the seventy-six playgrounds operated last summer by the Division of Recreation, forty entered teams in the district semi-finals, and seven district winners plus one honorable mention group competed for the city championship in the Little Theater of the Cleveland Public Auditorium.

We had long wanted to introduce drama tournaments in our summer playground program, but lack of funds made it seem an impossibility. When, in the middle of the season, a representative of the Distillata Company approached the Division of Recreation and expressed a wish to sponsor some activity, we felt that we, too, had been "given our wish."

Within a very short time the rules of the tournament had been outlined, the tournament organized, and the program gotten under way. A very intensive four hour drama institute was held which resulted in the admission for the first time by the men instructors that drama was fun!

Rules of the tournament were very simple: plays must be non-royalty or original adaptations; maximum playing time was to be twenty minutes—minimum playing time, twelve minutes; maximum number of players, twelve—minimum number, four; drapery was to be the only background and various settings were to be suggested by properties only.

Judging was done on the following points: choice of play; direction and teamwork; movement and pantomime, voice and diction; make-up and costumes; prop-

erties; general effect on audience. Groups were given from one to seven points on each item. In every contest competition was so keen that

often the semi-finalists won by less than a point. In the finals there was less than four points difference between number seven team and number one, and less than one point between teams one and two.

The plays ranged from *Tom Sawyer* to *Ferdinand the Bull*, with children ranging from six years to sixteen. (Next year we shall have two divisions.) There were peace plays and problem plays with gangs of toughies that would make the Dead End gang envious. There was even an original play, *His Mother's Memory*, that was a tear-jerker from the opening curtain to the last woefully spoken: "Gee, if I ever get out of this mess, I'm going to turn over a new leaf!" A very lovely skit written around Stephen Foster's *Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair* had a simple ballet group, a speaking chorus and a singing chorus, and two principals all in a cast of seven!

Semi-finals were held in the gymnasiums of the recreation centers or in small theaters loaned by the settlement houses in the districts. In most cases the plays had been rehearsed in a far corner of the playground, and costumes and props made at the same time. There was great interest exhibited by the parents and their help was enlisted.

The sponsor furnished soft drinks at all the semi-finals—a greatly appreciated service with the sun beating down through the skylights! The

sponsor rented an auditorium in downtown Cleveland, and on the next morning played host to four hundred contestants at a theater party where *The Wizard of Oz* was the feature. After the party the president of the Distillata Company presented the awards.

We feel that the tournament was a success

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Dramatics will play an important part in the playground program this summer. "Our thoughts are now being concentrated on the forthcoming outdoor matinee season in which children from our fifty municipal playgrounds will participate," writes Minnette B. Spector of the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department. "The children are all eager to take part again in these performances, which add so vitally to their summer enjoyment, and all are looking forward to the opportunity to indulge in their favorite entertainment of 'make believe' and 'dressing up,' especially since we have added so many new costumes to our Workshop supply."

Camp Fire Girls Learn to See

By C. FRANCES LOOMIS

THERE SEEMS to have been a great spurt of interest in nature lore among Camp Fire Girls since we revised and expanded our nature program at the time the whole program was revised three years ago. Perhaps the fact that so many people had a voice in the revision is partly accountable for the increased interest. In preparation for it we had been accumulating the suggestions of Guardians, Executives, camp counselors, and nature specialists who had been acting as advisors. Nor did we overlook the very pertinent suggestions that came from girls themselves. Suggestions from these many sources strongly influenced the reshaping of the nature program. Several times before we put the revision into form for printing we sent tentative drafts to advisors in all parts of the

"The more I think of it, I find this conclusion more impressed upon me, that the greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to see something. Hundreds of people can talk for one who can think, but thousands can think for one who can see."

—John Ruskin.

country and made the final draft in the light of this advice. The resulting program, we felt, was challenging and broad in scope.

The trends in the revised program were towards the following:

To develop clearer realization of the interrelations in nature; hence less emphasis on

identification as such, more emphasis on how things grow and live and react on one another.

Not to pigeonhole "nature," but to show how interest in different phases of nature might grow out of or lead into interest in other activities.

To provide opportunities for the least experienced and challenges for the more experienced.

To suggest activities attractive to girls in different parts of the country and in different types of situations,

Camp Fire Girls from New York at Camp Taulalac at Palisades Interstate Park are clearing away the dead branches and making a nature trail



Acme News Pictures

urban, rural, and others; hence to make the program very flexible, with a wide range of choice of activities.

We kept in mind, of course, our fundamental objective of helping the girls recognize, understand, and appreciate the beauties and wonders of nature. This for the pleasure and satisfaction it will give them now and in later life as well as for its effect on their mental and emotional development.

Each year we choose some of our regular program activities to highlight in a special project, and year before last, because of the growing interest in nature as manifested by Camp Fire Girls and the general public, we chose conservation. We were surprised at the enthusiasm of the girls for what, to many, may seem a dull subject. One answer may be in the fact that in camp and in their Camp Fire groups they had already become interested in many of the activities suggested. Another reason may have been because the suggested activities represented a wide choice of things they could really do individually and in groups, learning as they went along many of the challenging facts about the need and means of conservation in this country.

We were anxious that our program should be basically sound, so we first consulted Government services and other organizations concerned with conservation, such as the Soil Conservation Service, the Park and Forestry Services, the National Association of Audubon Societies, and the Conservation Committee of the Garden Clubs of America. We not only benefited by their advice in planning the project, but, with the endorsement of the national offices, paved the way for local cooperation. This was one of the outstanding values of the project—the bringing together of these young people with those vitally concerned with conservation in their own communities.

Some Group Activities

Among the group activities suggested, visits to demonstration areas of the Soil Conservation Service were very popular, especially when this was closely related to a study of camp grounds and picnic areas. For example, the girls in Buffalo, New York, made a model of their camp to show erosion. They made a report to their Camp Committee about what they thought needed to be done, and the committee has taken steps to carry out plans suggested. This included the planting of thousands of trees, with which the girls helped.

Making nature trails, establishing bird feeding stations and bird and wild flower sanctuaries, special plantings of nut trees and of trees and shrubs that are both ornamental and attractive to birds, were other popular activities. Sometimes this was done on public grounds with the cooperation of the Park Commissioners.

Diaries of "My Favorite" (plant or animal) were popular with younger girls. They made illustrated notebooks recording the environment of their "favorites," the hazards they faced, and what might be done to help them flourish.

Exhibits and public programs spread the interest throughout the community. Though this project was launched as a special activity in 1938, it was based on the regular nature program, serving to stimulate interest in conservation, and we are pleased to note in reports of Guardians and nature counselors that this interest seems to be continuing. We have been able only to touch briefly on a few of the activities enjoyed by the girls, but will be glad to send an outline of the conservation project to anyone requesting it.

An activity that we suggest to older Camp Fire Girls is that they choose a small tract of land and explore it just as far as their interest will take them. Often it takes them pretty far. We read the accounts of some of these explorations with great pleasure. The whole staff at headquarters had to take time off to hear Betty's description of "My Domain—by Right of Discovery," a tract of land in western Kansas which seemed largely made up of three large gullies and a limestone cliff. Long a favorite objective for horseback rides because of its current bushes and wild grapevines, now most of the vegetation had been killed by dust storms, but still there was much to observe and record, including the evidences of erosion. Our favorite character was young sister Susie who was pressed into service to carry equipment on the days when Betty made her notes—poor, faithful Susie, who was afraid of spiders but bravely pushed through masses of spiderwebs to follow Betty as she explored the gullies, who slipped on the loose limestone at the top of the cliff and skidded all the way down, who observed a vine too closely and next day broke out with poison ivy rash! Geology and insects most deeply engaged Betty's attention, though various plants and a few animals were delightfully described. Prize discoveries were a turtle shell, a hawk's nest—and fossils. The report was illustrated with

photographs, in some of which we were glad to find sister Susie.

Quite different was the experience of Carolyn on the coast of Washington. Her favorite tract of land was a state park and her greatest interest lay in exploring the rocks at ebb tide. Her description of the procession of plant life from the rocks inland was interesting ecologically, and we enjoyed with her the flight of yellow warblers and her delight when she first recognized the Nuttall white-crowned sparrow and its clear, sweet song. To read her report, which was illustrated with pen-and-ink sketches, was to share the sort of enriching experience we hope many Camp Fire Girls may enjoy.

We feel that it is particularly important that nature study should not be pigeonholed as such, but that every hike and camping trip and many group meetings and individual interests can lead to an increased familiarity with nature. At camp this is worked out by the camp director and nature counselors in various ways, most successfully, we feel, when a procedure somewhat like this is followed:

The camp director engages the best nature counselors she can lay her hands on—counselors who not only are trained in natural science but have the ability to imbue others with their enthusiasm.

She appreciates the fact that interest in the camp environment is an asset to every counselor and chooses the rest of her staff as much as possible with that in mind.

From the beginning of the pre-camp counselor training conference, interest in the natural surroundings of camp is stimulated so that by the time the campers arrive they find that the swimming counselor can show them a kingbird's nest in a dead tree trunk on the water front, and the camp craft counselor helps them to "see" when they are on their hikes and campfire cook-outs. In-

stead of a couple of periods a day when they can "take" nature, they are aware of it most of the time and can, with the nature counselors, satisfy curiosity and deepen appreciation aroused along the way.

Special table decorations, what-is-it mysteries on the bulletin board, a weather bureau, sharing of special finds, exhibits that find their way from the nature den to the porch of the main lodge, all help to spread interest, the more spontaneous and the less forced the better. But most important is the counselor keenly alive to her environment who can help campers see, and help them find the answers.

How a whole camp became conscious of the variety of wild flowers on their camp grounds is illustrated by this account of a wild flower show at the Detroit, Michigan, camp:

"Each cabin was asked for a contribution to our wild flower show. Some of them were surprising in their originality and attractiveness. Both campers and counselors responded beautifully. A striking centerpiece was arranged using a white washbasin from one of the cabins. Cattails and huge orange day lilies were combined to form another beautiful arrangement. A few days before the show, a loose old stump was planted with ferns and dainty flowers. By the day of the flower show the plants were growing beautifully, so the whole was transported into the lodge and was judged by all as the most unusual method of display. Dainty miniature gardens in washbasins, boxes, and one on a table top, were created. In collecting our flowers, we observed the sim-



San Francisco girls at Camp Wasibo can differentiate between poisonous and harmless snakes

ple rule of picking one flower only where we could see ten more like it. This way we avoided stripping any spot. The handcraft department helped with several flower posters. The value of such an activity lies in the fact that it helps to familiarize children with the common flowers of the camp vicinity, many of which are usually regarded as weeds, and to demonstrate how, by artistic arrangement, their beauty can be brought out. For example, one of the most striking bouquets was made by combining Queen Anne's lace with the rusty flower of the common narrow-leaved dock, which covers hillsides and fields. A flower show is a type of exhibit which might well be repeated every year. Differences in organization and arrangements would keep it from becoming too hackneyed."

What is possible at camp under trained leaders is not always attainable in a group under volunteer leadership, but the trend does seem to be towards a greatly increased interest in nature activities and more capability on the part of our Guardians. We help our leaders all that we can through our own publications and by recommending particularly usable books in this field. "Adventuring in Nature" by Betty Price, a publication of the National Recreation Association carried by our Camp Fire Outfitting Company, has proved a best seller. We make a special effort to catch the interest of Guardians who attend National Summer Training Courses. These are given at camp, and the locale is favorable to awakening the interest of even those Guardians who are still wary of nature lore because of their own lack of interest or of confidence in their ability. We have been fortunate to have such inspiring leaders as Dr. Harold Madison, formerly director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Dorothy Treat, now on the staff of the National Association of Audubon Societies; Dr. William Alexander, of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences; and others who were able to give Guardians, in a few days, a taste of what a nature interest might mean to them—and start them on their way.

Museums of natural history have been most cooperative in organizing or helping with local training courses, and such courses as those given by Reynold Carlson of the National Recreation Association have proved most helpful to Guardians. Many colleges are now offering courses in nature guiding, and we encourage attendance at these and at the special nature schools. The interest of the girls only awaits stimulus and guiding. The problem is still one of leadership, but this is less of a problem than it was a number of years ago, thanks to these opportunities for training, and the generally more widespread interest in nature study.

With all the effort put into the nature program, we should be disappointed indeed not to see an increasing interest among girls, but we are especially pleased and still a little surprised to find adult leaders becoming nature enthusiasts.

Here is a farm woman, Guardian of a rural Camp Fire group, who sends us her diary of "Just Common Birds," with its story of the killdeer's nest and eggs that were saved from destruction because the man at the plow knew of her interest and wanted to show it to her in his field.

Here is a woman in a small town whose developing interest in astronomy is being shared by husband and neighbors, both parents and children, as well as by her Camp Fire Girls. Besides stargazing sessions on her lawn, it has meant delving into books, making a telescope, and a trip to visit an observatory.

Here is a socialite who has turned the extensive grounds around her home into a bird and wild flower sanctuary where Camp Fire Girls may explore at will, and who has discovered there much she never knew existed before she started exploring herself. As evidence, she sends us a map gaily decorated with water-color sketches of her discoveries.

Best of all we like the story of two mothers (who were also Guardians) and their daughters, who spent a happy summer earning a Camp Fire rank in nature lore. They made all-day trips to state parks and forests, took their families along, and treated them to delicious campfire meals as an added attraction. Each excursion had its special interest. There were rock formations to study, unfamiliar plants with which to become acquainted, shore life to explore. Experimenting with edible plants, they picked huckleberries for pie and made teaberry tea, once considered such a reliable remedy for rheumatism! They tried taking photographs of wild animals and almost gave up in despair until a pompous frog agreed to pose for them.

Park superintendents and foresters were so delighted with people who had other ideas than just picnicking that they were most cooperative and took pride in showing off the unique features of their domains. In between trips there were collections to arrange and visits to the library for books to help them find out more about their discoveries. They started a nature library of their own, visiting the State Conservation Department and the State Advertising Council and getting their pub-

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Anchors to Nature

"DO YOU know what I should do with the first, full round hour that was all my own?" asked the Office Wife, looking wistfully away from her typewriter, out of the great windows thirty stories above ground. Below, the Hudson River lay stretched out



Courtesy Essex County, N. J., Park Commission

like a relief map. "I mean," she went on, "the first hour which I can have to live and not merely pay the sixty minutes for something to live on, the first hour that belongs to me."

"What will you do?"

"I shall go out and look for wild flowers — to look for the first wild flowers which I have not seen for years. I look from this office window all winter, and time slips so suddenly into summer that I never seem to know when it is spring. Some day I mean to take off time in spring to look for those fragile, gossamer little things that break through the last snow of winter before harder things come again to life."

From far above the lowering city clouds, buffeted as she was by subway currents, by the shrieking noises in the "masts and rigging" of skyscrapers, disturbed by the swells of mass psychology, this simple child of the city was throwing out anchors to nature to steady the longings of her soul. For all of us are timid before the overwhelming forces of the world around us. Though we long for the soothing delights of forest and hill, we feel naked and unprotected and alone when we try to face

By SYDNEY GREENBIE

himself; the scientist takes with him the means for making familiar the unseen forces; the photographer feels that into his little box he can snare the fleeting denizens; the fisherman, that his rod will haul the pluckiest little fighters of the deep. On boats the engulfing waters cannot drag you down; through telescopes, the stars lost in the universe come down to us; in hiking boots, neither bramble nor pebble nor snake can stay your stride. Man is always seeking to circumvent the denials of the earth, penetrating them, dissolving, removing, overtaking.

And always, when we cut loose and launch ourselves alone, or in the company of two or three kindred spirits, upon the woods, on the open road, on the long slope of a snowy field, on the frozen pond, or even seek the seclusion of the garden and the company of the phlox and the bees, there is an immensity in nature that is like the immensity of the sea. This wind, this sky, this sunshine, this

self-absorbed life of organic creatures puts our narrow, busy ways to shame. No man can stand alone, in a meadow, on a dock on the river without realizing how unimportant is his own web of little cares in

Through the courtesy of the author and of the publisher, George W. Stewart, 67 West 44th Street, New York City, we are presenting extracts from a chapter of a book, "Leisure for Living," which was published last spring.

even the woodlands in spring. We feel that we must have with us some staff or symbol of security by way of a sport or hobby.

It is too awesome just to stand on our own in the presence of nature. The hunter carries his gun, not so much to kill as to guard

this great scheme of things. And so when we go forth into this world beyond our man-made affairs we need some simple activity, some excuse of curiosity or physical exercise, to serve as our anchor in this great ocean of being.

Anything will take us out of this man-made world—a bicycle, a pair of hiking boots, and a pup tent; amateur science or nature study; sports or games; pageants and fiestas. A thousand simple instruments lie at your hand, and any one transports you into health and revivifying experience.

See then the mighty hosts of knights of joy go forth into the wilds, singly and in pairs and in groups. With the motor car cumbering all open ways, many seekers for solace turn to the bicycle or to their own feet. The bicycle is to the motor car what the canoe and rowboat are to the steamer. No one who has crossed the ocean in a luxury liner knows what a sea voyage really is; to know the sea, one must travel by slow ships, and best of all, under sail. So, too, the hurried crashing through space along the highways affords little or no real contact with the world about. The smells, the sounds, the ups and downs of earth, the lights and shadows are all blurred into one kaleidoscopic sensation of mere motion. It is all well enough to enjoy speed, but to live on speed alone is not more satisfying than to live on bread alone. It is therefore a healthy sign of return to some normality, that more and more young people are taking to the bicycle, not merely because it is more available and less expensive, but because it is living on many planes rather than one.

With only a few necessities strapped to their handle bars, thousands of happy souls swoop over the landscape on bikes at the rate of a hundred miles a day. Keeping off the main highways, they picnic in strange woods, stop for a dip in some hidden stream, and turn up now and then at some friend's house to which a change of clothes has been shipped ahead.

For those to whom even this is far too modern, there is recourse to that ancient and ever-trustworthy steed, Shanks' Mare. With pup tent and hiking boots for ballast, the tides of nature will carry no voyager too far. With youth hostels as ports of call everywhere along well marked trails, where they can sleep for twenty-five cents a night, the hat never was which could not find a happy home at will. Sallying forth with all worldly goods on their backs, they may gather hikers on the trail or go on and on alone, literally escaping on their own feet from the cares and restrictions of life.

There is much false jabber about the psychology of escape, the impulse to run away from one's troubles. But why should one not run away from them? The trouble is more often that men drag their cares along with them. Escape, if it is from wrong thinking to right thinking, from brooding and boredom and loneliness into vivid living, is not only necessary, but it is the only healthy way for the psyche. What did nature provide feet for if man is to turn them into roots? And from no liaison with leisure does a more happy outpouring of released good feeling come than from this living out of doors.

For most towns, there lies within easy range a world of ever changing wonders, now grey with rain, now warm with filtered sunshine, now black with the November menace. Doctors, engineers, salesmen, factory workers, college boys and girls, meet in the outskirts of cities to become new people. They become just woods people, sitting beside their camp fires, swimming in lake, pond or sea, fishing in tumbling streams, or stalking deer quietly. What they talk about when they meet would not move armies or stir senators, it would not sell stocks or settle strikes, but it has transformed civilization and taken the meanness out of money changing. Inversely, it has reminded Babbits of their souls and saved many a grafter from perdition.

For the encouragement of the exodus to the wilds we need more and better mountain trails, more and better bridle paths, and above all, paths for pedestrians along our highways. With our urban life encroaching so violently on the country, in sheer self-defense the individual still down on the ground with his feet should get a chance to exercise them as the first approach to nature. Motorists must share the highways with pedestrians, but both are driven neurotic with the misplaced demands of each. Carrying no lights and no reflectors, the unfortunate hiker, if at all absorbed in his walk, jumps constantly off the road, sometimes to his amusement, sometimes to his chagrin and too often to his misfortune. Millions for roads but not one cent for the human foot, seems to be the policy. Adequate paths along the highways, or circling off through fields and woods, would save lives and increase happiness and enhance property values and reduce ill-mannered recklessness. There seems no reason why, as the late Edward A. Filene suggested, every contract for a highway should not include a portion for footpaths.

The return to the wilds is more interesting to many if they make friends with the creatures who live there or collect some kind of treasure such as rock crystals. To men like Carroll Lane Fenton a dull strip of Florida coast becomes an absorbing rendezvous for the horseshoe crab. He finds that the moon-snail of Maine has a strange way of hunting and eating clams. Throwing over his nets, William Beebe drags up in one hour from the surface of the sea, millions of creatures to sight unseen, that take days and weeks to classify.

Contact with the wild creatures is open to us everywhere outside of the great cities. Out upon every doorstep innumerable creatures are disputing possession of this world with men, leading their own cheerful, egotistical little lives as if your property were theirs. With a lordly air Buttons, the cat, steps out upon the lawn prepared to defend our domain against the grey squirrel laying in his winter harvest of horse-chestnuts. Does the little thief run away to avoid arrests? Listen to him. He is daring the cat to catch him, but he does not run. Underneath the sunroom a skunk has made her home for generations, and now and then she strolls defiantly about the lawn giving her kittens an airing. Somewhat disturbed, because after all he doesn't like me any more than I like his quills, a porcupine has taken refuge in a tree and sits and stares, resolute in his right of eminent domain.

Looking for inanimate treasures is no less effective than the study of living creatures in making an adventure of one's contact with the world beyond our human concerns. Keith, as a country boy knowing his own landscape well, has had his eyes opened by his friend, the artist, to the revelations of science. So he has invested in a microscope that he may extend his limited knowledge about minerals. Here is the hard, forbidding world of rocks and stones, but here also is his hammer and a canvas bag for specimens, and Sunday, far from being profaned, is made more holy with a deeper insight into

God's most lasting creation. Evenings and rainy days he puts order and reason into these specimens, mounts them in little pill boxes whose interior he has painted black, and labels them with the legends of his progress in his favorite pursuits.

As the geologist looks into caves or sees only rocks on the shore, so the driftwood maniac goes about, like the alcoholic, seeing snakes in weathered stumps and saplings, or Chinese jade carvings in gnarled roots. The faces, the forms, the twisted relics tie the under-earth reachings of the world up to the wildest imagination. In my own study they serve as end-post to a bannister, as bracket for electric light, as door-stoppers, even as for Eugene O'Neil they served as visions for his personages, and as significant suggestions in the painting of Waldo Peirce. A collection of driftwood

"It is too awesome just to stand on our own in the presence of nature."



Courtesy Essex County, N. J., Park Commission

provides such a gallery of hitherto unknown beasts as is only to be equalled when the Dartmouth students get busy with snow sculpture and decorate the campus with imaginary polar fauna for their winter carnival.

An so these ties that bind us to our objective world are the links in the chains that anchor us to nature and its truth. In order that this chain may be flexible, mankind has from the beginning of time sought to domesticate animals.

To us the dog has become the perfect link with nature. When we are shut up in our city apartment, he is even more a reminder of our open lives than when we go forth into the forest with this little creature at our side. Out of the heart of nature he has come to us, and he takes us back into its heart with a happy good will. Himself a creature of intense affection and loyalty, he evokes from us a reflection of his love. Our kindness he exercises in relation to an unkind world, and misses perfection only in that through this inordinate trustfulness he is prepared to betray all other wild things to us.

If, on the active side, the dog takes us out of our limitations into the spacious world, on the passive side, the cat spells rest and self-sufficiency. The cat is soft padding in the friction of chain against flesh. If there is a galley slave who has forgotten the pain of the chain on his ankles, the spirit of some cat must have lodged itself beneath the iron. If there is restlessness in your soul and itch in your feet to wander, the cat will seat herself upon your lap and say "Soul, be still!" and I defy anyone to rise from his chair until his cat makes up his mind to step loftily from it. There is no greater fallacy in life than that a cat has claws. I have had cats for years and know whereof I speak. She has thorns, perhaps, but who is foolish enough to bring out the thorns under roses?

There is a way of transferring to the country even the artificial machinery of social life and finding it transformed by something the city can never give. Mrs. Yardley presides over collective golf on beautiful lawns in summer, gay fox hunts or grouse shooting on the moors in fall, ice fishing

and skating in winter, long rides over hills and valleys on horseback in spring.

But even more gregarious collective enterprises brighten our lives. Kenneth Bruce, as lecturer, keeps track of the seasonal feasts and pageants beginning to develop all through the country—from Apple Blossom Fête in the Shenandoah Valley, the Annual Masque of Yellow Moon Pageant at Phoenix, Arizona; the Rose Show at Santa Rosa, California and Portland, Oregon; the Float Night at Wellesley; the Corn Dance at San Felipe, New Mexico; the Azalea Festival in Charleston, South Carolina. "These celebrations are growing, and soon we shall have the circling round of the seasons marked as of old with appropriate ceremonies and drama," says Bruce. But we have far to go yet before we develop any adequate pageantry.

One of the greatest dangers in all these celebrations is the too obvious commercialization, though few of the great pageants of history were free from this. Inevitable as this must remain, need the hotels and automobile clubs blare their wares so blatantly? Can't the Chamber of Commerce remain a bit discreetly out of sight?

These fiestas make us conscious of the beauty of

our land and begin to gather around individual spots the kind of lore that has grown for centuries about places abroad. Many old civilizations like China and Japan have through the centuries developed a kind of poetry and ceremony of place, a geographical ritual of affection and worship. Shrines along the roadsides have enhanced men's consciousness of the presence of higher things. Making shrines of beautiful places has exalted the human mind, with the gods living on the Greek mountains and the mountains themselves being sacred, as in Japan. Thousands of Japanese, old and young, and even ancient, make the ascent of Fujiyama annually; millions leave business and pleasure to view the cherry blossoms or hurry out to spy the first peach blossoms in spring; the same millions clamber over the mountain sides to tint their souls in the delicate red leaves of the maple in autumn. Great religions and leisured classes

"Lucky are those people, young or old, who know how much of beauty and spiritual awareness can be gathered unto their souls from the great outdoors. To know how amazing are all other forms of life is to know more implicitly the divinity of the whole—to know more completely what to bring to our own lives. And fortunate indeed are those who have been guided in youth toward this appreciation. Today, just as truly as in the mellow reflections of Omar Khayyam long ago, mankind has been granted a spiritual heritage—a strange deep beauty and peace—a nearness to God—out under 'that inverted bowl we call the sky.'"—J. Otis Swift in *The National Parent-Teacher Magazine*.

have everywhere taken the lead in establishing such ritual of nature loving.

We have natural shrines in America as magnificent as any in the world—such as Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon—but so far we have made of such only a pilgrimage for brides and grooms. The government, through its National Park Service, has snatched some of our grandest sites from the clutches of selfishness, and communities here and there and even private persons are extending this.

So by one trick or another, man defeats the materialism from which he seems never to be able wholly to escape. At one moment, he utilizes all the collective force of invention and imagination, at another, he falls resolutely back upon his own inner thoughts or feelings. Whether it is in the use of a steamer for a sea trip or a canoe, whether he takes sketch-book in hand and jots down scenes and colors or taps a croquet ball across his lawn, he is a materialist only to the degree that he fails to enhance the little instrument at his disposal for living.

At no time since man began has there been so much love, and opportunity for love, of nature as today. Ruskin, and in our time, Havelock Ellis, point out that the ancients never knew wild nature as we know it, nor did it enter vigorously into their thinking. Greek art, says Ruskin, concerned itself with man, and the mountains were for the gods, safely to be let alone. Theirs was a city civilization, involved in the problems of men, and nature was tamed and brought safely within the walls of the garden. Beyond, all things were fearsome and unknown, and the word that comes down to us as *horrid* was first used as *horridus*, bristling, referring to forests. But with the conquest of America and the exploits of the trappers and the pioneers, the unfamiliarity with nature grew, till the train and the motor car dispelled all fear of the open, so that no longer is there any spot where our feet have never trod.

Youth naturally takes to the open world, but nothing comes with greater thrill and revelation than discovery of the outdoors made late in life. Some have shed the dry husk that had grown about them and come out on wings like the locust. So Hutchins Hapgood describes his delight when late in life he learned to drive a car, and driving over country roads seven miles for his groceries, with his dog in the seat beside him, he felt like one whose stiff old joints had by some miracle been made lithe again. So an old man in his

seventies has learned to ski, and found in a tumble in the snow a delight the boys whooping past him can in no wise know till they too are old and try something hard for the first time. So to Bernarr Macfadden, having walked himself into fame in his youth, and driven himself into boredom in his middle life, took to soaring into the air as a pilot in his own plane at sixty-eight.

But not all civilizations have enjoyed nature, and some of the finest seems to have got along without doing so at all. Nature is not a kind mistress, and man has found it well to provide himself with powers greater than his own to keep her sweet and amenable. Hence the machine. And what is wrong with enjoying nature from the vantage of that machine, just riding, just moving? What is nature? Does Einstein enjoy nature when he roams the realms of relativity? Isn't music nature? If so, isn't speed and motion only another form of rhythm, another way of experiencing objectivity, of breaking through illusion?

There is a perennial snobbery of mind which makes certain things culture and calls down scorn upon others. Professor Stalwart exhorts you to read as the greatest good and tells you not to wander over the hills unless you are studying geology. He is merely doing what the advertiser does who in an unctious voice exhorts you not to buy any cigarette but his. If the lowly peasant absorbed the beauty of nature inadvertently while lashed to the plow, why may not the youth with his foot on the gas do no less? Each of us has a God-given right to enjoy what he likes in his own way. Our pleasure is but an earnest of a soul of beauty that may some day grow for us, too, even out of nature controlled by the machine.

For as civilization, and especially mechanized civilization, increases, what remains of wild and growing nature on this globe will become increasingly precious. There is no society that can repay us for loss of sylvan solitude, no vitamins in tablets that can be to us what the taste of the wild strawberry plucked with our own fingers is. For the individual, whoever he is, of any class or opportunity, there is always the great democracy of wild nature—of the earth and that sea from which we all sprang and which receives us back stripped of all privilege and power. How can it matter how we come by that beauty, whether in an ox cart or in a limousine?

"At no time has there been so much love, and opportunity for love, of nature as today."

Appalachian Trail Conference Activities

Almost entirely the result of voluntary efforts of outdoor organizations and interested individuals, The Appalachian Trail is over 2000 miles in length

By DORA MARQUETTE
Vice-Chairman, Publicity Committee
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

TRAVERSING fourteen states along the crest of the Appalachian range from Maine's finest peak, Mt. Katahdin, south to Mt. Oglethorpe in Georgia, the southern end of the Blue Ridge Mountains, The Appalachian Trail passes through two national parks, eight national forests, and many smaller state parks and reservations. The elevation of the Trail varies from its highest altitude of 6,641 feet at Clingman's Dome in the Great Smokies to slightly above sea level where it crosses the Hudson River. Originally estimated as a 1,200-mile trail, its construction and measurement have shown the distance to be some 2,050 miles in length.

How the Trail Started

The Appalachian Trail project was originally proposed in 1921 by Benton MacKaye of Shirley, Massachusetts, who conceived the vision of a master trail which, for the ordinary walker, should be practically endless. His desire was that it should be the development of a primeval environment, a source of rejuvenation in nature, a retreat or refuge from a civilization which was becoming too mechanized. He gave expression to his plan in an article in the October 1921 issue of the *Journal of American Institute of Architects*. His proposal aroused the interest of many individuals who became volunteer trail workers and carried forward the location and construction of The Appalachian Trail. Their activities led to the organization of clubs inspired with the desire to participate in the completion and maintenance of the Trail. The clubs around New York City were the first to undertake actual work on the Trail, the first section being opened and marked during 1923 in the Palisades Interstate Park.

"In the mountain wilderness of the eastern United States, there has been developed and is being maintained for recreational purposes, a footway for the pedestrian known as The Appalachian Trail. As a continuous marked route for foot travel only—the longest in the world today—it is a mammoth amateur recreational project originally almost entirely the result of voluntary efforts of outdoor organizations and interested individuals."

The formation of clubs resulted in the creation of The Appalachian Trail Conference, a federation of trail clubs which became the fostering parent of The Appalachian Trail project, coordinating the activities of the scattered organizations, insuring the completion, continuity, maintenance, perpetuation and utilization of The Appalachian Trail. The first Appalachian Trail Conference was held at Washington,

D. C., in March 1925.

As outlined in its Constitution, the Conference was formulated for the purpose of promoting, constructing, and maintaining a connected trail, to be called "The Appalachian Trail," running, as far as practicable, over the summits of the mountains and through the wild lands of the Atlantic Seaboard and adjoining states from Maine to Georgia, to be supplemented by a system of primitive camps at proper intervals so as to render accessible for tramping, camping, and other forms of primitive travel and living, the said mountains and wild lands, as a means for conserving and developing within this region the primeval environment as a natural resource.

In August 1937 the entire length of The Appalachian Trail was initially opened. The activities of the Conference have been numerous and varied to meet the requirements of a unique undertaking of such magnitude.

The Conference is now divided into six districts: New England, New York-New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland-Virginia, Unaka and Southern. Each district has three representatives on the Board of Managers, the governing body of the Conference. Its administrative functions are conducted by the Chairman of the Board.

After the Trail had been constructed, marked, and measured, the major problems of the Conference became the continued maintenance, necessary relocations and improvement in the route and marking of the Trail, construction of side trails, preparation and issuance of guidebooks and maps, construction of a chain of shelters and lean-tos a comfortable day's journey apart, development of trail maintenance technique, assembling of equipment data for trail users, publication of a Conference trail-news magazine, publicity to assure utilization of the Trail, and plans for protection of The Trail and its surroundings as a wilderness area.

With few exceptions the entire Trail route is now apportioned for maintenance among the various trail clubs.

The Trail Marker

There was much experimentation in the development of a standard trail marker. Trail insignia of The Appalachian Trail are four-inch diamond shaped galvanized iron markers or square copper markers, bearing The Appalachian Trail monogram and "Maine to Georgia" legend. For the marking of the Trail route itself, except on high standard graded trails, rectangular paint blazes are used. White is the prevailing color, with blue for side trails. Because of local conditions, the main Trail blaze in New York and New Jersey is painted yellow, while in Connecticut and eastern Vermont it is blue. Two superimposed blazes or markers constitute a warning sign of an obscure turn

Hikers resting at Center Point Knob Monument--the midpoint of the Appalachian Trail on South Mountain in Pennsylvania

which might be overlooked. Board signs giving directions, distances and termini are now provided. The Trail Conference has issued a printed Manual on Trail Construction.

Side Trail Systems

Subordinated to the development of the main Trail project, but not necessarily of secondary importance, extensive side trail systems are being developed which are quite as much a part of The Appalachian Trail project as the main Trail. The Appalachian Trail, while a trunk-line trail along the ridge crest with its panoramic scenery, will also afford access to the gorges, waterfalls, stands of timber, and other places of great beauty which can be reached only by side trails.

Of extreme importance to the Conference has been the issuance of guidebooks to the Trail. The measuring of the Trail and obtaining of the data have kept progress with the actual construction. A series of five guidebooks with measured and detailed directions for the entire Trail has been made available. The Trail Conference has also issued a comprehensive pamphlet, detailing the history, route, guidebook data and literature of the Trail project.

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Photo by Abbie Rowe

Cincinnati Discovers the Fountain of Youth

THE DEVELOPMENT of Cincinnati's Airport Sports Field on the two hundred acre site of marsh land is no miraculous discovery, but instead a concrete illustration of foresight and planning. Visualizing the need for the development of a sports field, the Director of Recreation persuaded the city to transfer this piece of land, which it owned, to his Department, the Director's argument being that whereas the land was lying idle and undeveloped, the Recreation Commission could well utilize it.

Upon acquiring the land by transfer, one of the first tasks was draining the land and increasing by two feet the elevation of thirty acres. This was no small problem, undertaken in 1933 with the aid of Federal funds made available to municipalities for public purposes to relieve unemployment. Through the cooperation of FERA, CWA, and the City of Cincinnati, the development was begun.

At the outset, the sports field was criticized severely as being impractical for two reasons: first, whatever improvements might be made on the land would be destroyed in case of flood; and, second, people would not come seven miles from the center of town to utilize the facilities.

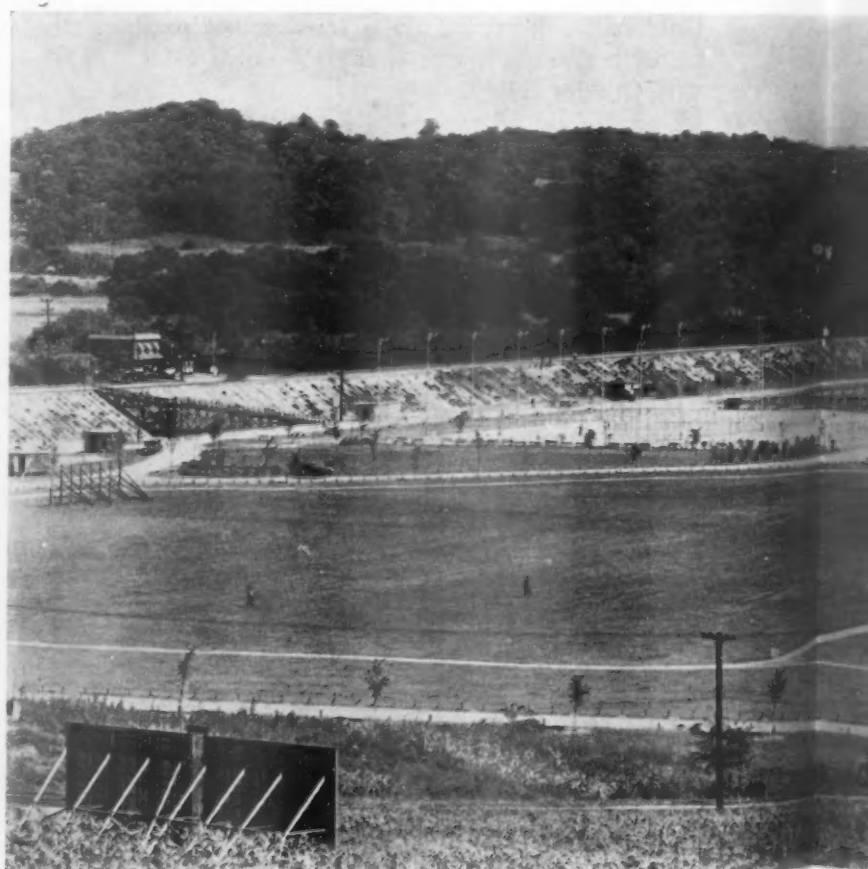
Work progressed nevertheless, and the City Council after careful deliberation authorized an expenditure for the purchase of eleven tons of grass seed for the entire two hundred acres by the fall of 1936. However, the flood of February, 1937 brought with it grave doubts and misgivings for the future of the sports field, and when the crest of eighty feet was reached, it was hardly conceivable that the newly planted seed could thrive on the inundated field. But when the flood subsided and the river returned to its course, the turf was found to be intact, and the grass grew into meadows. Incidentally, much of this same grass has been used since for sod on the municipal golf course and on playgrounds in Cincinnati, saving the Recreation

By HERBERT M. WEINBERG

Commission a considerable sum. A similar gain accruing from the rehabilitated marshes has been a community garden whose products consumed by the gardeners themselves have been estimated at a value of \$25,000 a year.

As it stands at present (and it is still not complete, new improvements and activities being added every year), the Airport Sports Field has an estimated value of \$1,000,000 invested in one and one-half miles of combined roadway and parking area, one hundred feet wide with a heavy gravel base; a mile of water lines with seven bubblers; and electric lighting layout with a capacity of 200,000 watts to service

A bird's-eye view of the Airport Sports Field of the grounds. The interesting pattern can be seen in the lower and left-hand



twenty-two tennis courts, general play area, rest rooms, and administration building; more than 500 concrete park benches; general landscaping with thousands of trees and shrubs; and the construction of playing facilities for approximately twenty different sports.

Having disproved its critics' first claim, it remained for the sports field to demonstrate its drawing capacity. The naturally level topography of the site in contrast to that of the rest of the city gave the first clue for securing an enticing capacity. Consequently three and one-half miles of bicycle trails, some of dirt, others macadam, and still others of concrete were laid out invitingly for the rider to cycle in safety down interesting roads, amid scenic beauty. In the summer of 1938, the first year the sports field opened, the Recreation Commission with some trepidation purchased twenty bicycles. Public acceptance of this activity was so strong that after a few days of operation with the limited number of bicycles additional ones had to be purchased. In 1939, 165 bicycles were used for a total of 45,000 individual rides.

Will people come from

Two years ago Cincinnati discovered the fountain of youth which the world has sought since the time of Ponce de Leon. The group of discoverers is known as the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, and they have called the fountain a sports field and have flooded it with light so that people may come to it at night and recapture their lost youth in play.

the widespread areas of the city to use the facilities? Attendance records prove conclusively that they do. Total attendance in 1938, the first year of operation, was 52,000. This figure was almost doubled in 1939 there having been a total of 95,000 active participants. Neither of these totals includes spectators, but it is estimated that there has been at least one spectator for each participant. The activities in which these participants engaged were: archery, badminton, baseball and softball, bicycling, checkers, croquet, golf, horseshoes, picnicking, pony rides, roque, table tennis, lawn tennis and bowling-on-the-green.

Each year new activities were added to make the program as comprehensive as possible as well as to stimulate public interest. The summer of 1940 will introduce a beginners' golf course and children's swimming pool. New activities which will be available under night lighting as well as during the day for the first time in 1940 are: six additional hard surface tennis courts (which can be flooded in winter for ice skating), and twenty shuffleboard courts. In 1941, boating, casting and other water sports will be made available through the construction of three inter-connected lakes laid on top of the surface instead of excavated due to the seepage of the Little Miami River. The bottom and sides of the lakes are being built up from the surface allowing an approximate depth of five feet.

The success of the Airport Sports Field may be attributed to two things: first, a variety of activities is offered which appeals to persons of all ages

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The Airport Sports Field showing the layout of the interesting pattern of the bicycle trails in the upper and left-hand portions of the picture.



Training for Nature Recreation Leadership

IN SEPTEMBER, 1935, when the National Recreation Association began its In-Service Recreation Training Institutes, a course in nature activities for recreation leaders was included as a part of the curriculum and Dr. William G. Vinal was secured to give the instruction. When Dr. Vinal became director of the Nature Guide School at Massachusetts State College, Reynold E. Carlson carried on the course as Director of the Nature Activities Service.

Since the initiation of the nature activities course some 6,000 leaders have received fifteen to thirty hours of instruction in the techniques of carrying on nature programs for children or adults. Most of the students in institutes are already engaged in some form of leadership either paid or volunteer. They are workers in public recreation departments, volunteer leaders from clubs, professional workers in private and semi-private organizations working with boys and girls, camp leaders, teachers, and workers on WPA Recreation Projects. A few participate entirely

because of their own hobby interests and not because they expect to use the materials with other groups.

In the short time available for the conducting of the nature classes there have been three things that the courses have endeavored to do. First an effort is made to introduce the group to some of the interesting fields of natural history—birds, trees, shrubs, conservation—and to the possibilities that they offer to provide leisure-time activities and interests for children and adults. In every case efforts are made to relate these fields to the various age groups that might be worked within the recreation program.

A second objective has been to provide the leaders with actual experience in some of the recreation activities in the field of nature. Field trips are taken, nature craft work is offered, outdoor games participated in, and instruction given in preparation of nature displays, trailside museums and nature trails. Even leaders without a great background in the

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A nature class at the Knoxville, Tennessee, Recreation Training Institute, goes on a nature walk



Photo by R. E. Carlson

A Program of Education Through Recreation

THE READING Public Museum and Art Gallery was conceived in 1904 by its founder, and present Director Emeritus, Dr. Levi W. Mengel, as the Department of Visual Education of the Reading School District. Since that time it has de-

veloped so far beyond the usual concept of a department of visual education that we have been at a loss for a title that properly describes its activities. Perhaps "sensory education" is as good as any term that has been suggested to date.

Slides, photographs and motion pictures, the usual vehicles of visual education, form only a minor proportion of the means that are in use in this moderate-sized but active museum which provides, as an integral part of the Reading School system, visual and sensory aids in the teaching of geography, art appreciation and nature study. While its geographic and art material covers the entire world, its nature education program has been largely restricted to the neighboring region, although the Museum houses collections that cover practically every part of the globe.

Besides acting as a center of distribution for the nature material that is circulated among the schools, illustrated lectures and demonstrations are held for the grade and Junior High School children who visit the Museum on schedule throughout the school year, supplementing their regular classroom instruction by contact with the objects, processes, and creatures about which they are studying. Some thirty-four thousand children from the public, parochial and rural schools, within a radius of forty miles, made use of the museum's facilities during the past year.

A Public Museum and Art Gallery which serves the schools of Reading, Pa.

By **EARL L. POOLE**

Director

The rocks, minerals and fossils of the neighboring region, life histories of the insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, beasts and other living creatures, are available for demonstration, and in season living specimens of many of these creatures are kept for

the edification of the pupils.

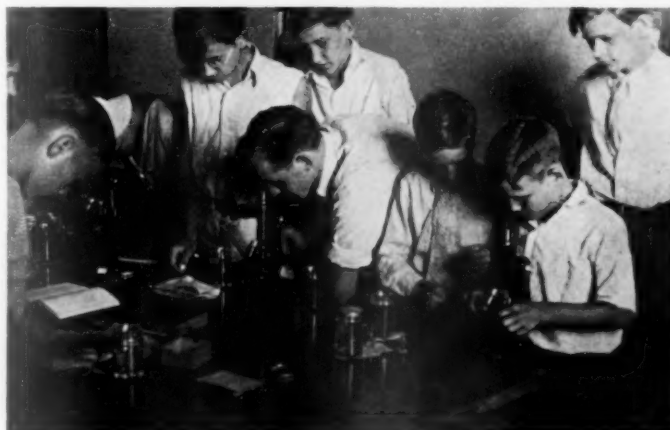
While there are many complete organized exhibits illustrating the natural history of the region and of the world at large, a great deal of the less valuable material is held for demonstration and more intimate examination. We have found that the children gain more through this informal method of presentation than through studying the specimens in the cases.

As the Museum is picturesquely located in a park of over twenty-five acres, a splendid garden, botanical garden and arboretum, with trees and plants plainly labelled, add to the educational advantages of the institution. A special effort has also been made to plant the varieties of trees and shrubs that attract birds. As a result many of the native birds are constantly in evidence, and the park has become one of the most attractive localities for bird life in the environs of the city. An attractive pond with several species of semi-domesticated and wild water fowl is another feature that attracts many visitors, besides furnishing an opportunity to study some of less-known species of water birds.

One of the features of the Museum's activities for the past ten years has been a summer course in nature study which is conducted for the nature-minded citizens of the community, old and young.

The courses in astronomy, geology, bird study, insect

A class in Microscopy at the Museum finds fascinating material for study



study, vertebrate zoology, microscopy and nature photography have proven most popular, and have resulted in stimulating much local interest in all phases of nature study, so that several permanent organizations composed of those interested in several of these studies have come into existence and have resulted in a widespread and persistent interest.

Field Trips

Regular classroom instruction is given in the fundamentals, made more attractive by the use of both living, mounted, and prepared study specimens. Then there are frequent field trips to the more interesting neighboring regions. Each year a few all-day or overnight trips are planned to localities which offer contrasting biotic conditions, such as the larger swamps and bogs, the mountains, and the seashore.

These trips are always looked upon as adventures and are contemplated with the greatest enthusiasm. Through them the students acquire a taste of the romance of exploration and adventure that is craved by most children, although many of them are able to satisfy this craving only vicariously through their reading. Under the direc-

tion of the instructors and older students, their powers of observation are developed and a rich background of experience is acquired that could be obtained in no other way. When this is reinforced with laboratory or classroom work, it becomes a vital experience that is not soon forgotten. The results are usually in contrast to the customary classroom work, which too often develops an aversion to the subject by divesting it of its esthetic background. After all, most of the subjects that are lumped under the title of nature study are only means to an end, which is a healthy love of the grand ensemble. The things that count most are the memories of those fine days afield when the woods and fields seem populated with so many fascinating neighbors, and the stories that are written in the rocks, the plants and the animate creatures, become intelligible to us, little by little.

Those who are seriously collection-minded are encouraged and instructed in the proper methods of preparation and care of collections; but for the most part the policy stressed is of conservation and enjoyment of things as they are.

For the more advanced students the Museum maintains

Geography becomes a much more interesting subject when it is studied at the Public Museum

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Nature Study in the National Parks

AS LONG ago as 1899, years before the establishment of the present National Park Service, the first pioneer naturalist activities were under way in a choice section of the Rocky Mountains, later included in famous Glacier National Park, Montana. Only a limited number of University of Chicago geological students had opportunity to take part in this field trip of forty-one years ago. But during the 1939 season several million people enjoyed the privilege which had been the joy of the few at the turn of the century. While Yellowstone National Park was created by Congressional action in 1872 and other national parks came into existence during the 90's, with still others following in the 1900's, the National Park Service was not established until 1916.

These federal areas had been administered by what are now considered more or less haphazard methods with inadequate planning for public service or provision for present and future needs. Notably lacking were the numerous services the public now takes for granted in national parks, but while they were not missed by the early visitors, the scenic splendor and natural phenomena were less appreciated and understood than they are today.

When Stephen T. Mather, the first director of the National Park Service, undertook his duties of the fledgling government bureau, he turned his early attention to the development of a program

In the Rocky Mountain National Park special provision is made for children through the Junior Nature School

By ERNEST A. ROSTEL



National Park Service Photo

Coast-to-coast broadcasts were a feature of the Junior Nature School during the 1938 and 1939 seasons. These informal trailside discussions carried on without preparation or script met with favor among children and adults.

to encourage a better understanding of the parks by their visitors. In 1917 a chief was named for an educational division with primary objectives of disseminating national park information for the benefit of the uninformed millions of the nation. No plans were yet to be made for actual work in the field, now performed by park naturalists and their staffs.

However, at that early date persons unattached to the National Park Service had carried on outdoor nature studies on their own initiative. One of these men who attracted attention to his work was Enos Mills, who had developed nature guiding in rugged

Rocky Mountain National Park, established in northern Colorado in 1915. Mr. Mills wrote numerous articles on methods used and published several books on the scenic wonders and wildlife of the

region. In California, John Muir, of the Sierra Club, stimulated interest in nature study in national parks of the coast.

Plans were started in Washington to encourage outdoor appreciation through work in the field, but definite arrangements were slow in coming. The California Fish and Game Commission co-operated in the field by sending its educational director to deliver a number of lectures in popular Yosemite National Park on natural history subjects. The first guided field trips were also offered, resulting in a response which quickly justified the efforts.

The first park naturalist was appointed in 1920

for Yellowstone National Park, followed by the appointment of a staff of two assistants in 1921. Later expansion of the service was rapid in this particular work, also providing the satisfaction that an important public service had been begun and that it would spread to all National Park Service areas. Emphasis was placed on the explanation of natural phenomena and provision of information on wild flowers, trees, birds, mammals and other natural history subjects through guided field trips, evening lectures, caravans and other facilities. Later came the development of museums.

Annually interest in these naturalist services increased. More and more park visitors wanted to know the "why" of many things they observed, with the result the wonders of the national parks became better understood. The naturalist programs reached a high stage of development, leaving but little to be desired by the public.

This was true in Rocky Mountain National Park as in other federal areas, but the schedules still retained a deficiency. Little provision had been made for children and youthful visitors whose acumen was insufficient to grasp information meant for mature listeners during guided field trips or evening lectures.

A Junior Nature School

This deficiency became particularly noticeable in Rocky Mountain National Park, attracting over 600,000 visitors annually. A substantial number of the visiting families remain in the park and surrounding area from periods of two weeks to all summer, camping, leasing cottages, or living in their own summer homes. Children during long vacation visits often became a problem for these middlewestern and eastern parents not knowing how to keep the youngsters' summer days occupied.

"Why not pay some special attention to the children," reasoned Park Naturalist Raymond Gregg. Suiting action to the word, he announced the opening of a free junior nature school in June, 1938. The response was immediate. Here not only was a solution for parents to keep their children occupied, but here better yet, was an opportunity to absorb knowledge of the outdoors hitherto denied them.

The school was initiated on a thrice weekly schedule with a beginning enrollment of nineteen young students whose avid interest assured success from the start. Much of this was due to the

complete absence of classroom atmosphere, and to actual visual and physical contact with outdoor subjects studied.

They learned what made glaciers, how the mountains were formed, secrets of trees and flowers, habits of the elk, deer, porcupine and other mammals. They made acquaintance with the birds which filled the air with song about them and how to identify them. The children were told of the Indians who roamed the mountains long years ago and how they lived. They even studied the tiny insects so in contrast to the towering peaks, whose story they also learned.

While the activities of the school were in themselves of sufficient stimulus to maintain good attendance, an additional incentive was provided in the form of merit award certificates. A student who had attended a required number of classes and satisfactorily passed oral and written examinations, was presented with a certificate indicating he or she had successfully completed a specified course of study. Certificates were awarded for such studies as Indians, general nature, elementary geology, mammals, insects, trees, flowers, birds and glaciers.

Quite unexpectedly, the junior nature school on its first announcement aroused the interest of the National Broadcasting Company through its representative station, KOA, in Denver, Colorado. A preliminary audition was sufficiently convincing for the NBC to schedule the summer classes for a period of ten weeks over its red network from coast to coast each Thursday afternoon. Several hundred fan letters and cards were received from listeners in forty-two states seeking printed scripts of the extemporaneous programs. These scripts were made available by the park naturalist.

The NBC again took up the broadcasting of the classes in 1939 by remote control, with portable microphones actually following the outdoor trips. Broadcasting was accomplished by short wave transmitters and telephone line for national release from Denver, nearly eighty miles away. The response to these programs from the "heart of the Rockies" was astounding. Approximately three thousand letters and cards were received, including many hundreds of requests that the programs be continued during the 1940 vacation season. Tentative plans are under way to resume the broadcasts, with the possibility they may be begun earlier in the season to enable their reception in school rooms.

In this event, children from the Estes Park school, in the nearby gateway village to Rocky Mountain National Park, would be used in the pre-vacation broadcasts until children arrived from other schools at the beginning of the summer season. During the two years the junior nature study classes have been in session the average enrollment was 130 students representing twenty-five states. The 1940 sessions, in view of the increasing popularity of the classes, are expected to show a substantial gain in students.

Nature Scouting

Inaugurated during the 1939 season was another special service for youthful visitors—Nature Scouting, or a program of mountaineering for boys from twelve to eighteen years old. Park Naturalist Gregg explains there is no cost involved with the exception of a minimum expense for special handicraft work, optional among the requirements for advancement in the organization.

Activities are primarily out of doors. Last year's schedules included a half-day hike or similar activity each Tuesday, with all-day hikes on Thursdays. An overnight trip and a climb to the summit of Long's Peak, 14,255 feet, are highlights of the program. Saturday afternoons are devoted to individual activities under the supervision of naturalist counselors, certified examiners for the Boy Scouts of America, making possible Boy Scout advancement parallel with achievements attained in Nature Scouting. The Saturday sessions provide for museum, nature trail, test and advancement work, as well as group activities.

A junior nature museum is one of the summer activities of the scouts in cooperation with students of the

junior nature school, providing opportunity to contribute exhibit material for display in the Moraine Park Museum. Nature Scouts also maintain a self-guiding nature study trail, marked with labels and other devices, for public use, with credit given the Scouts for its construction.

There are four grades of advancement in Nature Scouting. The first, "Pathfinder," has seven comparatively easy tests, such as a minimum number of hikes, wildlife and bird identification, and knot tying. The "Trail-Blazer" must pass fifteen tests, including seven first aid methods, outdoor cooking, and fire building. A "Hill-Topper" must pass eighteen tests. He must know how to orient himself by such objects as the sun, stars or moon. He must be able to give a four minute talk on nature work before a campfire meeting. The "Mountaineer" must have made at least eight all-day and fifteen half-day hikes, involving the climbing of five peaks over 10,000 feet high. Among his accomplishments are listed fire building by flint and steel or by friction, construction of an outdoor kitchen, make an overnight hiking trip into the mountains, and numerous other difficult feats.

Moraine Park Museum which houses the Junior Nature School and Nature Scout meetings. Here, too, are the park's collections of study skins and herbarium, and exhibits telling the story of pre-historic peoples and early settlers.

Last year Nature Scouting attracted twenty-seven boys, all of whom applied themselves intensively to the Nature Scouting courses. A number successfully passed the first test and were almost ready for the "Trail-Blazer" examinations. However, the Scouts are told to refrain from rushing through the preparations, which must be thoroughly mastered before tests can be passed. Park Naturalist Gregg states that at least three summers must be devoted to study before the final grade, "Mountaineer," can be attained. When this is accomplished, the Scout is



National Park Service Photo

thoroughly fitted to take care of himself in the woods.

Museums Popular

Of the 609,000 visitors the 1939 season brought to Rocky Mountain National Park, 137,348 visitors from June 1 to September 30 took advantage of available naturalist services, a gain of nearly 25,000 over 1938. They took part in a wide range of activities offered by the naturalist staff. Three museums, presenting geologic, biologic and historic information, were popular points for park visitors.

The Fall River Pass Museum, at an elevation of 11,797 feet, tells a story of the glaciers, life above timberline, Alpine biology, geologic aspects of the Rockies and other subjects of high altitude interest. Scale models and exhibit cases provide graphic information. A ranger naturalist is on duty to answer questions hurled at him by the thousands of summer visitors who find this the most popular of the three museums. Short guided trips to view Alpine flowers, at their best during July, are available. The museum is located on the Trail Ridge Road over the Continental Divide from Estes Park Village on the eastern slopes to Grand Lake on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains.

The Moraine Park Museum is well equipped with displays recalling the history of the Rocky Mountain park area, including an outstanding Indian exhibit showing the method of aboriginal life when red men came to the Rockies on summer hunting expeditions in the long ago. A number of display cases follow the course of history of white pioneers who followed them to the mountain fastnesses and made them available to the visitors of today.

One of the popular services at Moraine Park Museum is the daily glacier talk. The building itself is situated among some of the most remarkable glacial remains in the Rocky Mountains. Textbook examples of lateral moraines, hanging valleys, U-shaped valleys, glacier lake-beds, *rouche moutonnes*, vacated cirques, and small remnant glaciers are visible from the porch of the museum, making possible a clear, comprehensive laboratory demonstration using Nature's works for models. An oriented relief map of the park enables the lecturing naturalist to tie in the story of the Big Thompson glacial system visible from the museum with the entire series of glacial valleys in the park.

A third museum, consisting entirely of bird and

mammal displays, is located at Park Headquarters near Estes Park Village. Shown are the beaver in their natural habitat, ptarmigan, snowshoe rabbits, weasels, porcupines and other wildlife. Illustrated evening lectures are presented here on twice weekly schedules.

Other Activities

Outdoor Lectures. Outdoor lectures are offered nightly in an amphitheater near Moraine Park museum, where guest programs of outstanding merit, presenting nationally known naturalists or other figures, are offered on Sunday evenings. Campfire lectures are presented at smaller outdoor amphitheaters at Glacier Basin and Aspenglen, two beautifully situated government-operated free outdoor camp grounds.

Hiking Trips. Increasingly more popular every year are the guided hiking trips. On early morning bird walks, ranger naturalists identify the songs of birds along the trail. Two-hour nature study walks providing special study of trees, flowers, or of geologic features are scheduled regularly. Half-day and all-day hikes to points of outstanding scenic and scientific interest draw by far the largest following of any of the field activities conducted by the naturalists. In great favor is a strenuous hike to Tyndall and Andrews Glaciers with the naturalist. It is not uncommon for him to be accompanied by as many as seventy eager hikers.

Wildlife Watch Parties. In the cool of summer evenings "wildlife watch parties" are popular, especially those attempting observations of the wily beaver, whose dams are familiar sights throughout the park, but who himself is seldom seen. Often following campfire programs, ranger naturalists lead game stalking caravans to meadows where deer, elk and occasional predators, coyotes and bobcats, may be watched at night with the aid of spotlights. On other evenings, lectures are followed by "star gazings" near the amphitheater, led by naturalists having a knowledge of astronomy.

Camera Caravans. Camera fans were given a new service last summer in the form of camera caravans, which took their members to points of outstanding scenic interest. There a ranger naturalist versed in camera art aided visitors in getting the best out of their pictures. He explained the use of filters, best camera angles, exposures

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In Defense of Nature Study

By LULA A. MILLER

HAVE YOU EVER, on a dark night, watched from a pier the body of a swimmer outlined with silvery phosphorescence as he made his long even strokes? Or did you, by full-moon-notice as you glided down the river, observe that the paddles on the shaded side of the canoe were rimmed with the same silvery sheen?

One night when we returned from camp fire, the tide was low. The girls played the flashlights as they crouched over the shallow water. Baby eels, a collection of minnows, scampering crabs and water nymphs drew near. Flashlights off—dragging their toes through the water, the girls saw the same silvery streaks. Then their fingers became strainers. Just colorless comb jellies were retained in the palms. Such animals were slid in the glass jars containing brackish river water. Pastel ciliated escalators resembling combs arranged in transverse rows propelled them forward. Oystermen of the Chesapeake Bay tell us that seasons when jellyfish are abundant these comb jellies are scarce and more oyster spats appear. These ctenophores, which we call comb jellies, eat the young free swimming oyster larva. It happens our jellyfish feed on ctenophores. Hence our thought on interdependence, or how an insignificant animal or plant may be food indirectly for man.

Such observations may not be measurable as is athletic prowess. Days later, Matilda increased her knowledge of the big world when one night her shoe was tipped off the pier while she fished. In our cabin that night ("Pawa in Print" was in need of new contributors), I suggested that she write of the adventures of her new shoe at the bottom of the river. That was an idea. Immediately she stopped crying and slept. Proudly the next day she submitted her fanciful story interspersed with facts. All marine characters with

whom she had flashlight or casual swimming acquaintance had visited her shoe. This story was verified later by the recovered shoe.

An ever-present beach must be monotonous. "Why do we have four feet of beach some days, on others none?" Never did we quite make the few miles to Chesapeake Bay during our free time while the tide was out. What causes tides? What does one find, anyway, on such a beach at the base of water-etched cliffs over which honey-suckles and briars wrestle? A snail's short solitary path, especially if he remained on it, always delights a child. How does one interpret two

series of tracks of unequal sizes, then scuffled sand—finally one series, the victor, leading from this scene? Can you really eat strings of wild black cherries? Does the empty shell of the blue crab mean that it has lost its life, or has it just grown out? After all, the inconvenience we save ourselves by having an inside skeleton! No one had to miss the overnight schooner trip on the Bay because his shell hadn't hardened.

One may search for agates—just the rose or the clear are worthwhile on the river. Many appear clear when wet, but drying determines their beauty. Driftwood and abandoned skiffs with writhing symbols made by mollusks, called shipworms, indicate the necessity for creosoting piles of the sea wall or pier.

Father fishes with costly reel and tackle. Daughter at camp selects and cuts poles, ties hook and sinker on line, fishes from the pier or rowboat and likes it. Never disrupt the ancient idea, "Fish bite not, if you talk." Fishing defines patience. But, when they *do* bite! On the following morning, at the water's edge, you cook the fish you caught and cleaned. Some girls make their first fire or cook their first meal at this time.

Now crabs are different. Beyond low tide level



Photo and copyright by Fay Welch

there is a live box where crabs are kept until cooking time. If a child does insist that the wee crab is at least three inches, let her measure it. It's just as necessary to learn sportsmanship in fishing and crabbing as in archery or tennis. At no better time can one explain the word conservation. Any old-timer on the Bay speaks of the scarcity of crabs due to needless destruction of the young.

A camp possessing both an Indian name and a virgin forest can easily have its Indian garden. Each species of tree or flower can be identified and so tagged that its common name, scientific name, its use or some peculiar habit may be noted. In defense of scientific name, a common spurge has thirty names ranging from "Kiss-Me-Quick" to "Grave Yard Plant." Twenty-eight intervening names, mark you! Suppose you called your dog Rex. Perhaps he was lost and could be identified only by his name Rex, but each of your thirty friends knew this dog by a name unknown to any of the others of the group or by you. Poor doggie!

In this garden, untouchables should be listed—trailing ground pine, lady's slipper, dogwood and the rhododendron. Even in a state where it is permissible to cut the dogwood, never during the summer camping season should its leaves or berries be used for decorations. So why not cut for decorative purposes the gums, locusts or maples? If several are standing together, cut the less desirable if it will serve your purpose as well. Occasionally transplanting may be done. Try planting new patches of the ground pine (*Lycopodium complanatum flabelliforme*.)

An Indian leaves no signs of his camping ground except for tepee poles placed in the top of trees. Every child must realize her camp should be as beautiful for the next group of campers as she found it. Certainly use its natural resources. Select fern fronds so that no part of the bed will be shaggy. Mar no trail by picking flowers or cutting shrubbery on its very edge.

Legends are most ef-

fective on a trail while resting. Carry along a leaf or some reminder for recall. It's even fun to pretend one is lost. "What plants could you use for food, tea, medicine or shelter?" At once some one would suggest making candles from the wax secured by boiling berries of the bayberry as did the early colonists.

Nature games include treasure hunts and memory relays. Memory relays are best while resting on the trail or perhaps the following day when just loafing in some favorite spot.

During the week of rains, dress up the stationery with leaf prints. Common names of a few plants may be learned indirectly. Usually a few holes are washed out in the paths. Anchor small cedars in such places. Those returning the following year will be gratified to find soil had filled such gullies.

The best lessons are spontaneous. I, personally, pass up snakes but never snake stories or photographs! One morning a few of us had reached the barren pine cliff. This suggested paradise so far as freedom from snakes was concerned. Snakes prior to this had not been mentioned where they rightfully belonged. Betty announced, "I won't sit here. Maybe snakes are here." Even the pines were so tall, one felt a coil would not suddenly dangle from a branch. Her fear was based largely on stories told by her brother. Before we left, she was lounging with the group asking questions indicative of interest concerning the balance of nature.

How is one to know about athlete's nose?

Rena had it, so she informed the other ten-year-olds. Symptoms: Quoting Rena, "I can breathe normally under water."

In such emergency ask the reciters: "Does she swim well?"

"In addition to this nose, you say she dog paddles?" It was then mail time so far as they were concerned!

The winter garden in a fish bowl has a general appeal. It's something mother or grandmother will enjoy. Such

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Photo and copyright by Fay Welch

Are You Coming to the Congress?

"WE CERTAINLY ARE"—reply more than five hundred enthusiastic persons from all parts of the United States who have

already, five months before the Congress, sent in their cards to the office of the National Recreation Association. These are some of the people who consider attendance at the annual National Recreation Congress an essential for their professional development and for the enriching of their local recreation programs. If they are asked why recreation workers will especially want to attend the Congress this year they will say:

Present world conditions are a challenge to all of our thinking about the real values in life and how they may be realized. We need fresh vision and new courage to go forward to new and untried tasks.

The whole movement toward military preparedness in this country has tremendous implications for all recreation leaders. We will have new responsibilities thrust upon us. New financial and administrative problems will arise.

New program methods will be necessary. We will all need to counsel together if the recreation movement is to meet adequately the tasks that lie ahead.

Our laymen will need as never before to lend their vision and wisdom to the deliberations of this Congress. Their sound judgment, their broad experience, their deep concern for the welfare of their communities and for the nation as a whole must be shared.

Executives and leaders who are new in the work will want to catch the spirit of this great movement as it faces new tasks and reviews the experience of the past. New ideas, new plans, and new methods are important but new inspiration, new hope, new faith in the movement must be the driving force behind all plans and activities.

The nature of the service, which present day conditions will demand, will doubtless call for greater cooperation on the part of all recreation agencies. The presence of representatives from all kinds of recreation agencies, public and private, in the Congress will make possible conferences and personal relationships which will do

From all over the country they are coming to Cleveland, Ohio, September 30-October 4, 1940

much to stimulate the kind of cooperative thinking, leadership and activity which are necessary.

Along with all of these broader features of the Congress the basic problems of the recreation movement program will be discussed. Meetings will be arranged on the following topics:

Topics to Be Discussed

I. Basic Problems Facing Recreation

- Design of recreation areas and facilities.
- Discussion of study of volunteers in public recreation.
- Program planning on the individual playground.
- Practical methods of interpreting recreation.
- Boys' and girls' clubs in the public recreation program.
- Should recreation programs be organized and conducted by police departments?
- Pet ideas.
- Training recreation leadership.
- Special recreation problems of towns and small cities.
- Use of schools for public recreation.
- Out-of-town parks and forests.
- Fundamental financial problems affecting recreation.
- Practical methods for improving recreation personnel.
- Methods of correlating recreation work of public and private agencies.
- Evaluation of a city's recreation service.

II. Recreation Service for Special Groups

- Recreation for girls and women in different age groups.*
- Recreation in cooperatives.
- Rural recreation problems.*
- Recreation in industry and labor groups.*
- Special meetings for lay members of local boards and committees.*
- Recreation in churches.
- Recreation in new housing developments.
- Student recreation in colleges.

*Series of meetings.

III. Topics Dealing with Program Content

Scattered through the week there will be meetings dealing with special phases of the recreation program including:

Music	Nature	Model aircraft
Drama	Gardening	Athletics
Arts and Crafts	Winter sports	Folk dancing
		Social recreation

Each person planning to come to the Congress will receive a question pamphlet giving detailed questions under each topic. The final programs giving time, place, and personnel for all meetings and arrangements will be available at the Registration Desk at the Statler Hotel when the Congress sessions open.

Additional Features

The Civil Service Assembly of the United States and Canada will hold its meetings in Cleveland the week of the Recreation Congress. Recreation authorities and Civil Service authorities have much in common and this will be an excellent opportunity for the two groups to become better acquainted. Meetings are being arranged of interest to delegates from both groups.

The American Institute of Park Executives and associated agencies will hold their meetings in Cleveland just prior to the Recreation Congress. Those interested in the two meetings may attend both this year at little extra expense. Special tours and events are being arranged for Saturday and Sunday, September 28th and 29th, for those delegates who are to be in Cleveland between the meetings.

Among the special features being

planned is a nature tour of trailside museums led by Dr. Arthur B. Williams, Metropolitan Park Naturalist. The Metropolitan Park District of Cleveland has some unusually interesting features which delegates will not want to miss.

For those interested in gardening, Mr. Paul R. Young, School Garden Supervisor of the Board of Education, has arranged a tour of the Harvey Rice Garden. Cleveland's school gardens are outstanding. Information regarding them will be found in the booklet "Gardening—School, Community, Home," issued by the National Recreation Association.

In addition to discussion meetings at the Cleveland Congress, periods have been set aside for practice and learning of skills in folk dancing, social recreation and group singing. These classes are always among the most popular and enjoyable features of the Congress program.

A living arts and crafts exhibit put on by various agencies in Cleveland will feature the use of different methods and materials used in creative work in recreation agencies. With handcraft and allied arts growing steadily in interest on

playgrounds and in recreation centers, this demonstration will attract many.

Manufacturers of supplies and equipment used in the recreation program will be present in large numbers, with attractive displays, affording delegates an excellent opportunity to obtain information and ideas for their local programs.

For further information write the Recreation Congress Committee at 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

All the convention facilities of the Statler Hotel will be set aside for the Recreation Congress. The headquarters will be there. Information, registration, consultation service, the general sessions, most of the discussion groups, social events and other features will be at the Statler. Those wishing to be at the center of the Recreation Congress activities should make their reservations early and directly with the hotel. Further information about hotels and rooming houses may be secured from The Cleveland Convention and Visitors' Bureau, Inc.



It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

NATURE-GRAMS on a postcard. This month RECREATION launches Cap'n Bill's Column under the title *It's Being Done in Nature Recreation*. He would like to make it like the "patent medicine ads" in that the items have been tried and found successful. At least they should have been found to be big medicine in your recreation program. Send your "Nature-gram" on a post card to Cap'n Bill, Massachusetts State College at Amherst. If every one cooperates, the Society of Recreation Workers of America will attain its year's goal!

Giving fast cars all of the road! Folks of all ages, taking the longer way home, are discovering that trails and lesser roads are mighty interesting. From "jay-walking" to walking for Jays and other nature adventures is a worthwhile lesson in habit-forming.

Nineteen out of twenty forest fires are man-caused. What was the expense of these fires in your county last year? Could you afford to invest one-tenth of 1% in educating the public?

Mealworms are now being raised as a staple diet for frogs, snakes, fish and birds. Wildlife Leaflet, BS-155, U.S. Biological Survey.

Those who scorn "worms for fishing" are including the new book *How to Tie Flies* from the Barnes Dollar Sport Library.

New bird sanctuaries are to be built at Monson, Massachusetts, and at the Mt. Hermon School, Northfield. Wildlife Leaflet, BS-156, U.S. Biological Survey, *Ornamental Woody Plants Attractive to Birds*. The Massachusetts Audubon

Dr. William Gould Vinal of Massachusetts State College, (Cap'n Bill to you), has agreed to send us for publication in a special column of *Recreation* items of interest on nature recreation, notices of new books on nature lore, and happenings here and there. We know our readers will welcome Cap'n Bill's contributions to the magazine, and, as he suggests here, he will welcome notes from them.

Whitman and Company, Chicago. \$.50 each.

Living Specimens in the School Laboratory contains directions for the care and maintenance of living animals. \$1.00 postpaid from General Biological Supply House, 761 69th Place, Chicago. Biological morgues are no longer the only brand of exhibits.

Dartmouth College has a full-time Naturalist, Richard Weaver, who confines his endeavors to an extracurricular natural history program. That

Bulletin for May, 1940, also has a timely article.

Supplementary science readers are outflanking fact-stuffing books. The *Story of Bees* and the *Book of Stones* are two of the thirty-book Children's Science Series of the Pennsylvania Federal Writers' Project. Albert

Whitman and Company, Chicago. \$.50 each.

Living Specimens in the School Laboratory contains directions for the care and maintenance of living animals. \$1.00 postpaid from General Biological Supply House, 761 69th Place, Chicago. Biological morgues are no longer the only brand of exhibits.

Dartmouth College has a full-time Naturalist, Richard Weaver, who confines his endeavors to an extracurricular natural history program. That

an academic college is offering natural history as a satisfying hobby is revolutionary. More power for "seeing green" with Dartmouth!

The 500-mile Blue Ridge Parkway protects its natural beauty and bold panoramas by a park-owned right-of-way averaging 1,000 feet in width, free from billboards and other roadside litter.

Buckley Memorial Forest is the title of a special Bulletin edited by Dr. R. A. Johnson, State Normal School, Oneonta, N. Y. The ideals for which the forest stands are promulgated by essay contests among the students.

An observation bee hive, designed by Morton H. Cassidy, Hyde Park High School, Boston, has been widely used by camps and schools.

To bring about greater public cooperation in forest fire prevention, the American Forestry Association at 919 17th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., has issued a million new poster stamps in three colors depicting the destruction of property by forest fires. The stamps may be secured from the Association at \$1.00 per sheet of 100 stamps.



George Butler, the author of "Playgrounds" and other books on recreation, once asked me to recommend an insect book for his son. At that time *The Boys' Book of Insects*, Edwin Way Teale, had not then been published by E. P. Dutton and Company (\$2.00). It is well illustrated, arouses enthusiasm, and is practical.

The Log Cabin Myth, born during the "log cabin campaign" (1840) of President Harrison, is a study by Harold R. Shurtleff. Harvard University Press, \$2.50. There were no log cabins in America until the end of the 17th century. Speak truthfully when inaugurating a "back to nature" campaign in your community.

Twenty-five years of service will be celebrated in October by the Boston Children's Museum.

New nature leaders' schools are being born. O. E. Fink, Conservation Curriculum Supervisor, State Department of Education, Columbus, Ohio, is responsible for the new leaders' camp to be held in a state forest.

Conservation and School-Community Relationships is the title of a unique experiment to be conducted cooperatively by the University of Tennessee, the State Department of Conservation, and the Norris School.

The Training Course for Nature Leaders at the Swift Creek Recreational Demonstration Area, near Richmond, Virginia, under the direction of Reynold E. Carlson, Nature Specialist of the National Recreation Association, flat-footedly says that the courses will make a non-technical approach to the various nature fields.

The National Camp for Professional Leadership in Camping puts the matter on a graduate level. Life Camps, in cooperation with the New York City Schools and New York University School of Education is starting a progressive three-year experiment in the Kittatinny Mountains of New Jersey. Knowing Doctor Sharp, I realize that it means 90% mixture of pioneering set off by the spark of nature interest.

At the World's Fair Henry Platt, Director of the Department of Science, Elizabeth Peabody House, 357 Charles Street, Boston, in cooperation with the American Institute of the City of New York will once again have over fifty boys and girls, members of his science clubs, engaged in laboratory experiments. These outstanding demonstrations will be in the exhibit building of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company.

Cooking, Carrying, Camping on the Appalachian

Trail, a manual for beginners by S. W. Edwards. Press of William Jarboe, Washington. 25¢, and worth lots more!

Nature sketches by short wave from Rocky Mountain National Park, N.B.C., Tuesdays, at 1:30 P.M., Eastern daylight saving time. Raymond Gregg, Park Naturalist, will conduct unrehearsed discussions with children visiting the park on conservation and wildlife.

Was this you? Playground Leader to small boy: "There is a new nature game out." Small boy: "What would I have to eat to get it?"

The melting pot on a playground is less liable to boil over if it's nature. Why not have a nationality garden with the shamrock, the lily, the rose and the heather. They are all grown under the same natural laws. In Cleveland there are cultural gardens sponsored by nationality groups. There is a Shakespeare Garden, a Hebrew Garden, a Germanic Garden, an Italian Garden, and so on.

Massachusetts has 119 town forests, according to Harris Reynolds, the "Father of Town Forests." Of the dozen new ones Northampton leads the list with 2250 acres. The Hartwell Memorial Forest in Bedford is an example of a popular movement. Town forests bring recreation home to the folks. Recreation is taking its place alongside of feathers, fins, fur, and forest fruits as legitimate forest products.

"Minute men" for the Dutch Elm disease. How much is an elmed-city worth in terms of dollars or in terms of beauty? If elms mean anything to your community, the time has arrived for vigilance. Wilting of the foliage is a sign of trouble. For real diagnosis consult your nearest State College. The Federal Government has ear-marked \$400,000 for Dutch Elm eradication work.

"Trail Riders of the Wilderness" is the title of 1940 trips under competent leadership announced by the American Forestry Association, Washington. Here's an idea for local recreation workers.

Diorama is a Greek word which means "looking through to see something." Progressive museums are installing dioramas of life groups and landscapes. Three questions: Where is the nearest museum? Where is the nearest diorama? Have you tried diorama displays in down-town windows or in the playground "shelter"?

A word to the wise. "Animal wages" at Hollywood depends on intelligence and scarcity. If you have a "nature trick" that took brain work and is scarce, send a nature-gram.

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Camping in Oregon -

A Hobby for the Middle-Aged

MANY PEOPLE seem to feel that camping is only for the young and vigorous and that those who did not "begin young" cannot or should not take it up in later years. Perhaps the experiences of a few of us—all women and all frankly middle-aged—would help dispel that hypnotic illusion.

Our enthusiasm for camping is a recent acquisition, due to the fact that our young days were all spent in the cities of the East. But once exposed to its lure in the beautiful Oregon setting we became mild fanatics, for, as with the measles, the older you are the harder you take it!

Comfort Is Permissible!

As we get older perhaps we demand a little more comfort in this matter of roughing it. But at the same time we need to watch ourselves to see that we do not slip in a little gadget here and a bit of luxury there, until we are like the friend of mine who said to her fellow packer as they were starting out—"Shall we check now to see if we have everything in the car?" and the reply was "T'would be easier to check what we have left in the house."

Can you sleep on the ground with nothing beneath you but that romantic-sounding one blanket? Frankly, *I can't*—that is, and sleep! So imagine my delight to be introduced to the air mattress. They weigh only four pounds and take up almost no space when deflated. A pump is not necessary; twenty-four blows from nature's pump that is always with you will do it, and it is a most excellent deep breathing exercise! No more digging holes for

If you go camping when you're middle-aged, such hair-raising "stunts" as this will not appeal to you, but you'll find many fascinating things to do.



Courtesy Colorado Mountain Club

By FLORENCE D. ALDEN
Director of Physical Education for Women
University of Oregon

hip and shoulder; no more hunting for a so-called soft spot; just throw the mattress down anywhere—it fits itself equally graciously to the contours of the earth and to the contours of your body anatomy. Curled up in your sleeping bag on top of your mattress you are as comfortable as on your Beauty Rest at home.

Forest Camps

Perhaps the easiest form of camping is that offered in the Forest Camps. There are many very alluring ones on the Willamette River, the McKenzie, the Santiam, the Metolius, the John Day, the Wallowa, and others. The forestry people have done a most expert job of building the camps to fit into the surroundings. In some, a place has simply been smoothed for your tent, but in many they have built most compact little shelter huts made of rough logs with a slightly raised platform for sleeping bags, a shelf for eating and a bench or two—all the comforts of home! One end is open, and just outside is an artistic rock fire-place—half of it made for an open fire and so arranged that the heat will be thrown into the hut on cold nights, and the other half made like a stove and placed near enough for dashing out between rain drops to flop the pancakes and turn the bacon. And how good the bacon does

smell sizzling away out there! You may fuss at the coffee at home and mutter if the toast is burned—but out under the trees and the sky, to the tune of the rustling river, those very things, seasoned with a little smoke and a pine needle or two, are heavenly good!

In most of these camps the forestry men bring firewood all cut and dispose of the garbage. Too much cannot be said for the courtesy of these forest rangers. They not only do their assigned duties most efficiently but they are enthusiastically interested in helping you to have just the kind of a good time that you yourself want no matter how wildly foolish it may seem to them. For women wandering and camping alone this feeling that Uncle Sam and all his gracious servants are keeping a friendly eye out for you gives you a delightfully comfortable sense of being cared for.

The thing to be feared in camping in the East is at times the rough human element. When we came out here our fear of man was transferred to a fear of wild beasts. Everything in the West is bigger than in the East—even the stories! So we heard of coyotes, cougars, bears, and other animals. In all our years of camping, many times in high, far spots, we have never seen anything wilder than a bear—and he was more scared of us than we were of him. Our nearest contact with the bear species was rather close in on Blue River. We were cooking a most delicious smelling beef-steak over our camp fire and looked up to see a half grown cinnamon bear squatting on his hind quarters, paws crossed on his stomach, sniffing in the steak odors through ecstatic quivering nostrils. We were so interested that we forgot to be alarmed, but the instant we moved he lumbered regretfully away and splashed across the river.

Once when we were camping far away from civilization on the John Day River, a forest ranger came into our camp and after asking us if we had any menfolks or any firearms, he looked at us with a wicked twinkle and said, "You women certainly are brave, camping here alone with the woods full of cougars." That night we heard things, but whether they were dream cougars or real ones we shall never know.

"Far from the Maddening Crowd"

Perhaps, like us, you enjoy occasionally getting way away into the wilds—"far from the maddening crowd," and camping "raw." Most such spots anywhere near the cities have been made into forest camps. So you will have to pile your duffel

into your car and just go a-hunting for a place that suits you. Two summers ago we picked out the Deschutes River as a hopeful hunting ground. We wandered up and down in the land and to and fro searching for a spot where no one had ever dreamed of going. The day wore on, and at every place we thought attractive there would be very tangible evidence that someone had thought it attractive before us! Then at long last we ran across one of these good friends—a forest ranger. Resourceful as always, he said "Why not leave the road and go right through the forest till you find a spot?" The floor of the forest across the mountains in Central Oregon is fairly open and free of underbrush. So with renewed enthusiasm we turned our patient car into the woods, and dodging towering pines and scratching sage brush we made for the Deschutes. Guided by the directions of the friendly ranger we struck the river at exactly the kind of place we had been picturing in our minds. So we pitched our little umbrella tent by the beautiful sweeping curve in the river and beneath the shade of huge sweet smelling yellow pine. The deep running stream slipped quietly by us all day long and time slipped away just as quietly. The only way we had of marking the days was that when two or three none-to-ambitious fishermen strolled by we knew it was Sunday.

Sometimes you may get the urge to go even farther into the the untouched areas. But then you will have to part with your car and take to the miles of forest trails. If you are a hiker and don't mind carrying a heavy pack it is all very simple. But why not have a horse's legs do the pushing and a horse's back to do the carrying? If you have a man in your family who is a camping addict and who also *knows horses*, again it is quite simple. But be *sure* he knows horses, for to get up in the cold dawn and scramble through dewy underbrush after a strayed horse is not romantic. And to have the pack with all your food slip off and rattle down a precipice is little short of tragic! But this need not happen for excellent packers, who are also men of very fine caliber personally, may be engaged at many points near our primitive areas.

A Horseback Trip

Last summer two of us, with a packer and one pack horse, took a five day horseback trip along the Skyline Trail in the high Cascades. We started from the Metolius River country and made

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Outdoor Movies in Sioux City

By CLARENCE C. BOHNER
Department of Public Recreation
Sioux City, Iowa

TOMMY—"Hi, Rich! Going to the playground movies tonight?"

Richard—"Sure tooting. How about you?"

Tommy—"I'd like to but Dad's out of the city and Mom's expecting company."

Richard—"Why don't you go along with us? We're leaving in about twenty minutes."

Tommy—"Gee! That would be swell. What's the picture tonight?"

Richard—"I think it's Joe E. Brown in 'When's Your Birthday.' I hope it's as good as last week . . . that Frank Buck picture 'Bring 'Em Back Alive.' Didn't you think it was keen?"

Tommy—"I'll say it was. That's one of the swellest pictures we ever had."

Such conversations are common occurrences in Sioux City throughout the summer months, for movie night is something looked forward to with eager anticipation by thousands of people, both young and old.

On each of the twelve largest playground areas, one night each week is set aside as movie night when the children, young people, parents and neighbors come to the park for a regular movie program. It is the same type of program that one would see at a cinema theater except that only approved pictures are shown. This is an all-sound program consisting of a regular feature and other shorts to make an hour and a half program.

The movie always starts with a cartoon comedy, and if the feature is not too long other shorts are shown such as sports, education, music. This is then followed with the feature itself.

Of course one cannot start this outdoor movie until it gets dark. It has been found that in this locality the starting time must be after 8:30 P. M., but by the close of the summer program in August it is possible to start as early as 8:15. Thus with an hour and a half program, the family may usually start home around 10:00 P. M.

Seating the Audience

Most of the people sit directly on the grass or bring blankets to place on the ground. The use of camp stools, folding chairs or portable park

benches is discouraged. When portable seats are brought they must be placed to one side in an area marked off for this

purpose. A few of the better attended areas are situated on rolling ground, and by placing the screen at the foot of the incline the audience may sit in a semi-circle on the hillside, which forms a natural amphitheater. It has been estimated that more than five thousand people witness the movies at some of these more favorable spots. However, in the majority of the parks, twelve to fifteen hundred people attended each evening's entertainment. In some of the parks nearly half of those attending are adults, while in other areas the majority are children. A total of twenty thousand people view the pictures each week at the twelve park areas. It is true, however, that a few of these are repeaters, for some of the younger generation make a practice of following the pictures from one park to another in order to see the show two or three times. It is often necessary for a child to travel two or three miles in order to accomplish this.

The Equipment

The equipment used is relatively simple. The screens are 8 x 10 feet in size and are made of rubberized material laced on a collapsible wooden frame held in place by guy ropes and iron tent stakes. The machines are standard 16mm sound on film projectors. Those built for larger audiences with a 1000 watt projector bulb and an amplifier with at least 30 to 40 watt output are satisfactory for such outdoor showings. This type of projector can be purchased for approximately \$500.00 or may be rented for as little as \$30.00 per month. Usually two large speakers are used, one on either side of the screen. In the 16mm size, a sixteen-hundred foot reel runs about forty-five minutes, so by planning the program to fit two 1600 foot reels, there would be only one change or break in the program. By the use of a microphone plugged into the amplifier, advantage of this brief pause is taken to make announcements about playground activities, thereby reaching a larger group than ordinarily would be reached.

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WORLD AT PLAY

A Toy Loan Drive in Oakland

IN MARCH, the Oakland, California, Recreation Department conducted a toy loan drive during which Boy Scouts visited every home in Oakland to collect broken and discarded toys, games, and dolls. After reconditioning by members of the Fire Department, these toys will be loaned without cost to children through various recreation centers.

Working for Safety in Bicycling

REALIZING that bicycles represent a special traffic problem, the National Safety Council recently organized a committee on bicycle problems. A preliminary statement of the committee: "Bicycle registration must be recognized as one of the most important phases involved in the safety problem. The committee has laid the foundation for an extensive study, to be started immediately, pertaining to all phases of bicycle safety. This includes, other than bicycle registration, the study of safety equipment essential to a bicycle, the accident statistics which would be of greatest help, the place where bicycles should be ridden by the various age groups, educational facilities available to combat the danger points of the problem, and other important problems."

The "Old Guards" of Elizabeth

ELIZABETH, New Jersey, has a unique social group whose members are keeping up with the times. Those who belong to the Old Guards are all retired men, more than fifty years old—men who have played active roles in business and government and are unwilling to become recluses through retirement. Unlike the usual old men's group, they meet weekly for stimulating discussions and never yet have had time for a checker game or a chess contest. Their time is taken up with speakers, movies, music, and outings. There are now 140 members—and a long waiting list of prospective members. The Elizabeth club, formed

in 1936, was the fourth such organization in New Jersey. The first was founded in Kent in 1931, the second in Morristown, the third in Westfield. There are also clubs in Montclair and Rahway, New Jersey; Oil City, Pennsylvania; and St. Petersburg, Florida. There is no central organization, so that the small dues collected go entirely to the local chapter. Only common interests and a uniform objective—"to give the wives some respite from the presence of retired husbands"—bind these different clubs together.

A Costume House in Provo, Utah

IN 1937 the Department of Recreation of Provo, Utah, with the cooperation of the school districts which donated a room and of the WPA which furnished leadership, organized its costume house. A drive for costumes by WPA workers resulted in securing over 2,000 costumes donated by citizens. These costumes were fumigated and renovated, and 600 new costumes were made during the year. Any organizations desiring new costumes were permitted to have them made at the costume house if they would furnish the material and turn the finished costumes over to the house after they had been used. The making of a hundred papier-mâché masks and costumes proved a splendid activity last year. The money for materials was furnished by the Senior Chamber of Commerce of the city.

A Plan for Young People's Dances

THE RECREATION Department of Pacific Grove, California, has initiated a program of twice-a-month dances on Friday evenings from 10:00 to 12:00 for high school, and post high school young people. The dance is held at the municipal auditorium, and a charge of twenty cents per person is made or thirty-five cents for a couple. All who attend must have cards issued by the special recreation dance committee made up of adults and young people.

An Amateur Radio Station—Manchester, New Hampshire, has a local amateur radio station, the equipment for which was supplied by local citizens. The Park Department remodeled an old stone tower to house the station which is available to all. A local radio club has been formed, and the broadcasting facilities are so complete that frequent conversations have been carried on with stations as far away as Australia.

A Drama Contest—The community centers of the Board of Education of Cleveland, Ohio, this year conducted a city-wide drama contest. As a special award the Play House of Cleveland invited the cast of the four prize winning plays to repeat the plays during the week beginning April 1st. The members of the cast were received under the same conditions as the regular players of the Play House. The four plays were: "And Now—the Journey," by Conrad Carter; "Red Velvet Goat," by Josephine Niggli; "Supposin'," by Sander Vopos; and "Four Hundred Nights," by Jack S. Knapp.

Acquiring Parks Through Gift—Recently the *New York Times* reported that a public-spirited citizen had been ready to give a 150-acre estate as a public park to the city of Yonkers but the city was reported not to be in a position to finance the satisfactory maintenance year after year. There is no question that there are large tracts of land with high valuation that could be made available for park recreation through gifts, if only a moderate campaign toward this objective were conducted.

Winter Sports in Essex County, New Jersey—Last winter the Essex County Park Commission sponsored its first downhill ski race held in the South Mountain Reservation. There were two entries from the Plainfield Ski Club, five from Montclair, and one from Long Island. The course was half a mile in length with the trail dropping fairly fast in some places, and with one 90° turn where a member of the National Ski Patrol was placed. As a result of his interest and cooperation it is possible that local ski patrols will be formed.

The youngest of the twenty-seven contestants boasted that he was nine years old, while others in the junior class were thirteen, fifteen, and sixteen respectively. The oldest of the adults, who was born in Telemark, a town in Norway from which the famous telemark turn takes its name,

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was at least sixty years old. One girl competed.

The downhill ski race is now thoroughly a part of the winter sports program in the Essex County Park Commission, and next year it will be held on a trail with sharper grades.

A Boon for New York Photographers—The ranks of amateur photographers have increased to such an extent that one New York City realty firm is planning to equip each building under its management with a dark room. The company will also offer tenants a free course in a school of photography. The dark rooms will contain stainless steel sinks, mechanical ventilation, enlargers, printing machines, developing tanks and trays, safe lights, timers, trimmers, and other photographic apparatus.

A Museum Demonstrates Handcraft Activities—In 1936 a group of fourteen men in Weston, Vermont, organized the Vermont Guild of Old Time Crafts and Industries, with the purpose of maintaining Vermont interest in native crafts. They built a "working museum" to demonstrate how those crafts were carried on by pio-

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neers. Centered about a sawmill and a blacksmith shop, the building displays early methods of making wooden, copper, pewter, and wrought-iron articles; in the loom-room visitors see how wool and flax are spun, carded, and woven into material. The Vermont Guild has set up year-round courses and short-term summer classes for instruction in American handcraft. These courses are open to rural people who are interested in making articles for their own use or for sale and to craft teachers.

New National Park Established in Michigan

—Back in 1931 Congress first considered the establishment of Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior, Michigan. In April the state of Michigan gave the Secretary of the Interior a deed to the remaining amount of land which will meet the requirements of the Federal law in regard to the establishment of national parks. Isle Royale National Park is an archipelago containing Isle Royal and over forty other islands. The total acreage is 133,405 acres.

Rural Music Project Begins—For the past

fifteen years Cornell University has developed special music programs for 4-H Clubs and the annual Farm and Home Week. During this time rural communities have made increasing demands for active guidance of local programs. In response Cornell University this spring is initiating a three-year program of music and dramatics made possible by a grant of \$20,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation, and service will be extended to cover all of New York State. A previous grant provided for the writing and distribution of plays based on the folklore of the state, and a continuation of the rural dramatic movement has been made possible in the present grant. The aims of the project are to guide rural communities in developing their own resources and to make their experiences available through written reports to all rural communities of the country.

A Boys' Symphony Orchestra — Before the depression the Providence, Rhode Island, Boys' Club has a symphony orchestra which ranked with the best similar groups in New England. Then, because of budget reductions, the orchestra was forced to disband. This year the boys are hunting up discarded musical instruments, for the club is initiating a course in music appreciation and is reviving orchestral and choral work in its program.

Happenings in Akron, Ohio — The Department of Recreation of Akron, Ohio, reports an unusually successful camp season. Happy Days Camp was operated on a new site and in a new building in Virginia Kendall Park. The Metropolitan Park Board furnished the facilities and provided the camp director. Approximately three thousand boys and girls were transported by school busses from the playgrounds to the camp. Sandy Beach Camp served about six hundred boys and girls at alternate periods during the summer. The theater trailer unit traveled to fifteen communities during the summer months presenting pantomime, dance numbers, and amateur skits for the playground children.

A Cycle Train — On Sunday, May 5th, the Municipal Cycling Association of the Department of Playground and Recreation of Los Angeles, California, sponsored a cycle train which took cyclists and their bicycles to Santa Barbara where a barbecue luncheon was served free to all members of the group. The afternoon was spent riding through the hills of Santa Barbara and Montecito. An assembly car for entertainment was attached

to the train. The round trip fare for the ride of two and three-quarters hours was \$2.50.

Helping to Plan Vacation Schedules—As a special aid to parents whose problem during the summer months was to plan for the happy occupation by their children of the many hours of leisure which vacation brought, F. S. Mathewson, Superintendent of Recreation of the Union County, New Jersey, Park Commission, assisted in planning individual vacation schedules for the enjoyment of the park system's many play facilities.

Detroit Essay-Winners Go to Camp—In the city of Detroit this past summer, four participants in the essay contest conducted by the Department of Recreation won a free week at Camp Recreation, near Brighton. The subject of the seventy-five word essay was "Why I Would Like to Go to Camp Recreation." Recreation Commissioner Clarence E. Brewer, who presented the awards, estimated that the number of children attending Camp Recreation this season totaled more than 2,000.

Working Toward a Goal—The East Bay Regional Park District of California has acquired 4,000 acres toward its ultimate goal of 10,000 acres for park purposes.

Inexpensive Booklets on Recreation—The Washington Service Bureau, 1013 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., publishes a series of booklets at ten cents each covering a wide range of subjects in the leisure-time field. A number of them deal with gardening and flowers; others with games, social activities, and sports; still others with such subjects as fortune telling, and personality and charm. A complete list of publications may be secured on request from the Bureau.


Outdoor Movies in Sioux City

(Continued from page 261)


The equipment is set up before the show and taken down after it in less than half an hour. It can be easily transported on a small two-wheel trailer or even carried on the side and in the back seat of a regular passenger car.

The selection of films to be shown is one of the most important parts of the whole program. Since

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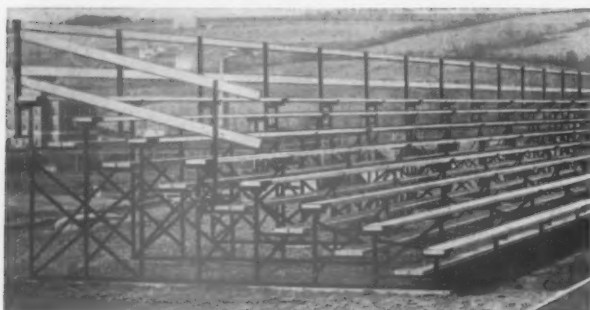
these films are for the enjoyment of the whole family, pictures must be selected that will interest small children as well as young people, their parents and even grandparents. Since they are for public showing, pictures must be chosen that will not offend any particular group and will maintain high standards.

Selecting Films

Before making a selection of pictures, considerable preliminary work is done. All the feature films listed by the leading rental libraries are checked and their rating determined in order that the very best material available can be used. While a number of magazines give reviews and ratings on films, it has been found that the type of rating found in the *Educational Screen* and the *Parents' Magazine* is the best for most purposes, since they give separate ratings for adults, and children.

Most feature pictures are not released for non-theatrical showing until several years after they are shown in theaters, so it is necessary to have back numbers of these magazines available. As

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an aid in determining the release date, a late issue of the *Film Daily Year Book*, which lists the release date for all feature pictures, is used. For the summer program of outdoor movies, only pictures which are recommended or at least given a satisfactory rating for showing to children, youth and adults by one or both of the above mentioned magazines, are shown. Since the film ratings from these magazines are not merely one person's idea, but often a composite opinion from a number of different reviewing bodies, one is fairly safe in accepting these recommendations. At least there is something definite to back up the selections.

The Sioux City Department of Public Recreation had an interesting experience along this line. One of the daily papers printed an editorial criticizing one of the pictures and suggesting that more care be used in the selection of Recreation Department movies. Immediately the magazines were taken to the editorial writer and the methods used for selecting the films was explained. As a result, he was convinced that the best pictures available were being used, and he promised to write another editorial explaining the difficult

problem of pleasing all the people and commending the method of selecting films.

In the selection of films, care is taken to avoid the cheap western picture which seems to be offered in such abundance. The following are samples of some of the features that have been included in the program the past four years: *Little Men*, *Peck's Bad Boy*, *Keeper of the Bees*, *City Limits*, *I'll Tell the World*, *The Healer*, *Rainbow on the River*.

The film rental is not such a financial burden as one would expect. Film programs that rent from \$8.00 to \$10.00 per day can be rented for \$20.00 or \$25.00 per week, when used a week or two at a time. Practically the only other item of expense is the salary of the operator which need not be such a big item because of the simplicity of operating a 16mm sound-on-film machine in comparison with the regular 35mm machine.

Not only do movies provide wholesome entertainment for entire families at no cost to them, but by using the microphone an excellent medium of publicity for the recreation program is made available and other activities of the Recreation

Department are easily "sold" to the public. Through this means, a large number of contacts are made and many new people are informed of the program.

In Defense of Nature Study

(Continued from page 254)

a garden not only gives a chance for selection of plants best adopted for small amounts of soil, but shows the necessity of careful root treatment. Try arranging on an old platter a few stones, some moss, an orange toad stool and pipsesewa in flower.

"Any one who does not want to sail a boat, ride a horse or swim at high tide today may go on a nature walk." I don't blame them, I wouldn't go either. Until the camp authorities can realize that it is not necessary to set apart nature observations and interpretations as something scheduled; or during a shower to don hat and boots and trek through the woods after some queer duck, such a phase of camp life will fail to have appeal.

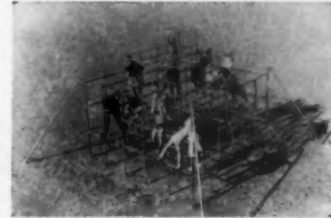
A Housing Development in Durham

(Continued from page 228)

contest which is sponsored by the City Recreation Department—an activity which dates back to 1926. There are at least nine species of birds, including the chick-a-dee, tufted titmouse, flicker, red-headed woodpecker, white breasted nuthatch, robin and English sparrow, who have become residents of these fine houses. In addition, Dr. Johnson, President of the Duke-Durham Bird Lover's Club, reports that sixty-two of the one hundred and twenty-five species of birds of this locality have been seen in the Sanctuary. The entire area is free from squirrels, and hunting is discouraged unless the weapons used are field glasses or cameras! This form of "shooting" is done to a great extent.

For the convenience of those who wish to study closely certain outstanding characteristics of birds and to prevent unnecessary noises and disturbances while doing so, special mounded grass paths have been built. These feathery carpet paths have proved to be very satisfactory to all who have used them. The erection of suitable fireplaces and picnic grounds has encouraged people to take their lunches and spend the entire day in the area. These are only a few of the fine developments in the Sanctuary. There is now under construction a nature museum 31' x 46' which will house a

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donated collection of two hundred bird nests along with many other attractive features. Under consideration at the present time is the building of observation stations and the additional planting of trees, shrubs and flowers.

The daily attendance at the Sanctuary ranges from fifty to two hundred people representing varied interests of both young and adult. The school children, especially those of the fifth and sixth grades, find this area an ideal outdoor laboratory for their science classes. Groups from the city playgrounds make at least two scheduled trips to the Sanctuary during the summer, and these are under leadership so that points of interest may be clearly explained. Four of the playgrounds are within walking distance of this area, and transportation is provided for all the other children who are not so conveniently located. The Boy Scouts have planned to plant a collection of wild flowers in the park, while the Girl Scouts have made special trips to service certain of the bird feeding stations. The Duke-Durham Bird Lover's Club, the Durham Hiking Club and other allied organizations have also found extensive uses for this area. Perhaps above everything else the

Sanctuary has afforded thousands of individuals an opportunity to come closer to reality and indulge in a recreation activity that is bound to bring lasting appreciations and satisfactions throughout life.

Nature Advising in Girl Scouting

(Continued from page 222)

the sky line. Personality education, even in large congested cities, cannot be effective unless some means are evolved to give expression and to develop that phase of child nature. Official education over-emphasizes the intellect at the cost of the emotional-aesthetic expansion. An evolved personality has these multifarious phases balanced; his emotional-aesthetic and intellectual-rational responses are equally developed. Art, music, singing, the dance, creative literature, poetry, dramatics, and arts and crafts are balanced against discussion, research, and science. But none of these can take the place of experience with nature, plants and animals."

Cincinnati Discovers the Fountain of Youth

(Continued from page 245)

and their correspondingly different tastes; second, and by far most important, is the system of night lighting which makes the facilities available to thousands who have never before had the time or opportunity to utilize them. Simultaneous participation in activities by entire families has been made possible, and while children are occupied in activities provided for them, parents are left free to engage in their own play, or all may engage in the same activity if they desire. The sports field offers young men and women an ideal place to engage in co-recreation.

The policy of the Recreation Commission in operating the sports field has been strictly non-profit. The food and soft drink concession also is operated by the Commission. On the point of fees and charges, the Recreation Commission has been self-critical, but it is necessary that small charges be made for the use of facilities because the project must be self-supporting, since it is impossible to spare any part of the Commission's regular operating budget for the Airport Sports Field. It is regarded better to make these small charges to cover operation expenses than not to provide the facilities at all.

Cincinnati has no monopoly on the fountain of youth. It has been secured by three administrative devices available to municipal recreation departments, namely: inter-departmental transfer of city owned land; WPA contributions; small fees to cover current operating expenses.

Appalachian Trail Conference Activities

(Continued from page 243)

Shelters

Shelters, at intervals of a modern day's journey, are regarded as an essential part of the Trail system. With the completion of their sections of the Trail, particularly in the less-developed regions, trail clubs are giving consideration to the construction of shelters or affording other accommodations for users of the Trail. A definite program was initiated in 1937, in cooperation with the Federal and State Forest and Park Services, for the completion of a chain of lean-tos along the entire route of the Trail. Subsequently many shelters were built in national forests and parks. Guidebook Trail data for the various sections list the shelters and available accommodations to meet the needs of the noncamping hiker. In the Maine wilderness it is possible to tramp 173 miles for seventeen days and find, each night, satisfactory public accommodations in the form of a sporting camp. In the Maryland-Virginia territory, similar eleven-day trips of 170 miles are possible.

The Contributions Made by Clubs

The clubs comprising The Appalachian Trail Conference have made extensive and valuable contributions to the knowledge of the little-frequented mountain regions and to collection of historic data in many sections. Trail workers have also spread the technique of light-weight camping equipment. As media for dissemination of trail and outdoor technique, The Appalachian Trail Conference has been a material factor in the development of the chain of new clubs throughout the length of the Appalachian Mountains.

To fill a long-felt need, members of The Appalachian Trail Conference published the first two issues of *Appalachian Trailway News* in 1939. This semi-annual publication of The Appalachian Trail Conference is devoted to The Appalachian Trail, the activities of interested individuals and affiliated clubs, and news items of general interest.

In addition to the individual resultant pleasure from execution and accomplishment of the objective, the motivation and justification for the clubs' maintenance of The Appalachian Trail are the extensive use of the Trail and shelter system by hikers and campers. Hence of no little importance to The Appalachian Trail Conference is the acquainting of the public with The Appalachian

Trail through articles in magazines and newspapers; publications; radio; lectures; movies, permanent and temporary exhibits in museums, sportsmen's and outdoor life shows; and World's Fair and photographic exhibits.

In 1937 the Conference started a constructive program in connection with a proposed plan to preserve and protect the Trail and its environs through the establishment of a zone or isolated strip two miles in width in which no new paralleling roads or other development inappropriate to a wilderness area are to occur. In 1938 "The Appalachian Trailway Agreement" was executed between the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service for the promotion of The Appalachian Trailway to extend one mile on each side of The Appalachian Trail in the eight National Forests and two National Parks, a distance of 705 miles out of the 2,050 miles of Trail. This program has been extended to include adherence to the Agreement by all fourteen states, with one exception—Maine. It is hoped to eventually include the remainder of the Trail route. Thus there is being provided an insulation of the route of the Trail as a section set apart and dedicated to the interests of those who seek recreation on foot.

Nature Study in the National Parks

(Continued from page 252)

and other bits of camera usage not generally understood: The service was so popular that it will be repeated during the 1940 season. The picture caravans covered an approximate route of fifteen miles, affording opportunities for wildlife shots and scenery for moving picture and still camera users alike.

Automobile caravans, accompanied by ranger naturalists, are on regular schedule during the summer from Estes Park Village to the Continental Divide at Milner Pass. General nature observations are made along the way. Special caravans for the study of roadside geology form a summer activity popular with scientific students and visitors from all parts of the land.

Naturalist services begin the first week of June, reach their greatest activity in July and August, and are concluded the latter part of September.

Rocky Mountain National Park covers 405 square miles of a choice section of the Rocky Mountains, and is the most accessible of western national parks to eastern and middlewestern points. It is under the immediate administration of David H. Canfield, park superintendent.

Recreation Notes and News

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE has appointed George O. Draper as Coordinator of the Program for Training in Recreational Leadership there. Mr. Draper graduated from Springfield College and has taken graduate work at Columbia and Harvard.

Dr. John Brown, Jr., internationally known Y.M.C.A. physical education leader, was guest of honor at a recognition dinner held May 13th in New York City upon his retirement as national "Y" physical director. Among the speakers who paid tribute to Dr. Brown's forty-three years of athletic leadership were Dr. John R. Mott, president of the World's Alliance, Y.M.C.A., Dr. J. E. Raycroft of the American Olympic Committee, and Dr. E. M. Best, president of Springfield College.

Charles Stapleton, Acting Director, Community House, Goldsboro, North Carolina, was selected to lead the United States swimming team which participated in the annual Pan American swimming tournament held in Buenos Aires early in 1940. Six American nations were represented in the meet which was sponsored by the Hindu Club of Buenos Aires and the South American Swimming Federation. It is suggested that anyone interested in having further information communicate with Mr. Stapleton.

A. J. Slogeris, former Superintendent of Recreation in El Paso, Texas, now working on an engineering project, maintains at his home an open hobby center to which anyone may come at almost any time to learn how to do things in which he is interested, with the help of Mr. Slogeris or some other volunteer equipped to teach the hobby.

Directors of year-round recreation have recently been appointed for the first time in a number of cities.

Joseph A. Brislin has become Director of Recreation in Barre, Vermont. Another Vermont city to establish year-round recreation under the leadership of a Recreation Commission is Brattleboro, where Frederick Martin has become the recreation executive. Springfield, Vermont, has engaged Ralph Hileman to serve as year-round recreation executive.

In establishing its year-round recreation system,

Watertown, New York, has appointed J. J. Perry as its recreation executive.

New Canaan, Connecticut, has also joined the ranks of year-round cities, and E. Dayton Jones has become the Director of Recreation.

Some Adventures in Vacation Reading

(Continued from page 226)

over 800 reports made to Mrs. Smith on the second contest, and 920 in the third.

In the summer of 1939, the vacation readers formed the "Clock Club," and the club motto was "Pass the time away with a worthwhile book." Each child entering this contest was given a cardboard with a clock in the center on which a white line had been drawn from each hour to the edge of the cardboard. The name, "Clock Club," was printed in white ink at the top of the card, and at the bottom was written the name, grade, and school of the child. A different colored card was used for each grade. A cord was tied to the cards so that they could hang on the bulletin board in decorative array. The object of the contest was to read the clock around as many times as possible. When a child read and reported on a book, a star was put on the line running out from 12 o'clock, and so on for each hour on the clock as more books were read. The stars, however, had different values, according to the type of book read.

The method of scoring according to age group was as follows: a gold star counting 500 was given for non-fiction books only, the required number of pages varying with the age group. Silver stars counting 300 were given to the sixth, seventh and eighth grade pupils for books which contained 200 or more pages; to the fourth and fifth grades for books with 100 or more pages; and to the first, second and third grades for books of 50-100 pages. A red star counted 200 and was given to sixth, seventh and eighth grades for books of 100 pages; to fourth and fifth grades for books of 50-100 pages; and to first, second and third grades for books of 10-25 pages. A blue star counting 100 was given to sixth, seventh and eighth grades for books of 50-100 pages; to the fourth and fifth grades for books of 25-50 pages, and to the first, second and third grades for books of 10-25 pages. At the close of the contest which was held from June 1 to September 1, first and second prizes in the form of books were given to the ones with the most points in each grade from each school.

The last contest was especially successful, with a total of 920 reports turned in. The interest in non-fiction books was especially stimulated, since the highest-counting gold stars were given for reading them.

Enthusiasm for these contests was aroused by the librarian who visited each school just before vacation and told every class group about the contest, explaining what the motto was, when the contest would start, and at the same time building up a relationship with the pupils. This contact with the school children contributed a great deal to the popularity of the contest.

The bulletin boards were always eye-catchingly attractive, and numerous book displays made book selections easy for the participants.

The children in Hillsboro have gone adventuring into new worlds and different lands in the summer time and also have laid a foundation for a knowledge of library use, number system and literary appreciation which will enable them to go farther in the future.

Training for Nature Recreation Leadership

(Continued from page 246)

field of science can find some activities which they can conduct with children's groups and thereby foster interest in natural history.

The third objective is to make known to students the sources of help in their own community. The local organizations, such as museums and botanical gardens, are usually eager to help recreation groups establish nature programs, and hobbyists are often willing to provide volunteer leadership. The students are also given an opportunity to become acquainted with bibliographical sources to which they may turn for help in the various fields of nature.

Throughout these nature courses it has been the effort to develop in the leaders themselves an enthusiasm for nature, thereby making it possible that their own satisfactions may be passed on to those with whom they work.

Dramatics Come to Life

(Continued from page 232)

from every standpoint. The children and the audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and our leaders have a high regard for the place of dramatics in the playground program.

Cycling for Sociability

(Continued from page 223)

an overnight camping trip, and a final barbecue.

A Memorable Camping Trip

The camping trip was one of the highlights of the season. Early on a Saturday morning nearly twenty club members met and set out for Camp Rutledge, a state park about forty-five miles southwest of Athens. As it was the first real cross-country trip for all except the writer, stops were made rather frequently, and the ride assumed the proportions more of a leisurely jaunt which, in the philosophy of the club, is the true purpose of biking. The afternoon and evening were spent chiefly in exploring the camp area, and an efficient kitchen staff prepared a big supper for all the riders. On Sunday morning swimming and fishing were the order of the day. The ride back Sunday afternoon climaxed a splendid outing. It was a real experience for all who participated and attracted much favorable attention all over town. Since all the bikers were adults there was no safety problem, and it was a very fine demonstration of the possibilities of biking for adults.

A Barbecue as the Grand Finale!

As a climax to the biking season the club planned a barbecue at a camp ten miles from town. Sixty-five bikers assembled late that afternoon and pedaled out to enjoy the occasion. The guest of honor was a member of the University faculty, Professor D. L. Ernest, who, at the age of 77, is still an inveterate biker and has been riding for more than fifty years. After the barbecue the president of the club presented Professor Ernest with a parchment certificate naming him honorary life president of the city cycling club because of his consistent interest and enthusiasm for the things the club was organized to promote.

To the club as a whole Professor Ernest's experience is a reminder that they, too, will probably enjoy bike riding through most of their lives and Athens is enthusiastic over biking as an activity that has a great appeal for adults as well as youngsters. The warm fellowship which has resulted from the many fine experiences of the cycling club has meant much to the whole membership, and as spring once more approaches plans are being made to make 1940 an even more significant year of biking experiences than was 1939.

The Yosemite School of Field Natural History

SINCE 1925 the Yosemite School of Field Natural History has been engaged in the task of training park naturalists and other nature leaders. The school was organized by Dr. Harold C. Bryant, now Park Superintendent of the new Kings Canyon National Park. Each summer about twenty college graduates have been selected from among applicants from all over the United States. These students are chosen on the basis of scientific training, experience, character and the promise they show of making profitable use of the training provided either as park naturalists or in some other phase of natural history leadership.

The Yosemite National Park provides an ideal location. Not only does the park provide scenic marvels but it also contains an extensive flora and fauna. The variation in elevation from approximately two thousand to over thirteen thousand feet makes it possible to find in one area five different life zones embracing plants and animals typical of conditions from the Mexican Border to the tundras of northern Canada. Geologically, it represents a notable example of stream-worn canyons widened by glaciers, and the story of granite is revealed in its rounded domes and batholiths.

The training consists of seven weeks of practical field experience in interpreting nature. Nature guiding is taught, demonstrated, and practiced through participating in the naturalist program of the park. Students record observations, collect specimens, write nature notes, and compile complete scientific reports concerning a week of carefully planned ecological study on a research reserve area. An opportunity is provided to study the flora, fauna and geology above timberline on a two weeks pack trip into the High Sierras.

Mr. Bert Harwell, Park Naturalist of Yosemite, acts as director of the school and Mr. Joseph Dixon, Field Naturalist of the National Park Service, serves as assistant. Members of the Yosemite naturalist staff assist in the instruction and several specialists from the University of California and other universities also serve on the instruction staff.

The eight weeks program is an extremely varied one providing for field instruction in the various fields of science, excursions to the nearby gold mining country, visits to the groves of Big

Trees, and evening campfires with outstanding scientists and National Park Service leaders as speakers. The high point of the summer is the two weeks High Country Pack trip. This is a never-to-be-forgotten experience among the peaks of the wilderness sections of the Park. This provides opportunities to study alpenes, climb mountains and enjoy some of the finest scenery in America in the company with other like-minded people and under the leadership of men who are able to interpret the world of nature. *Lloyd Parratt*, Graduate of the Class of 1939.

Camping in Oregon—A Hobby for the Middle-Aged

(Continued from page 260)

a loop starting on the Skyline Trail at the point where it crosses the Santiam Highway, going by Santiam Lake, Jorin Lake, Bingham Basin, Marion Lake to Jefferson Park, and back again to the Metolius by Hunts Cove and Cabot Lake. It was one of the most thrillingly free experiences we have ever had—not hard and fairly inexpensive. All day long we threaded our way along the trails always in sight of the snow mountains, Sisters, Three Finger Jack, Washington, Jefferson. Every night we camped by some lovely mountain lake and slept beneath the trees and the stars. The guide did most of the heavy work and cared for the horses. To watch him pack the pack-horse in the morning and throw a diamond hitch over it all was like watching an artist create a picture.

Our afternoon and night at Jefferson Peak is beyond description. Our camp was by a rock-shored lake in a circle of fir trees whose needles, falling for who-knows-how-many hundreds of years, made a soft fragrant carpet. Framed between two trees rose Jefferson Mountain towering white and still against the deep blue sky. At night the clear white stars made deep contrasts of light and shade upon the sides of the mountain. And that mountain air and the clear warm sunshine at noon and the brittle cold at night!

For very luxurious horseback camping there are organized trips for this country, covering the trails from Mount Hood to Crater Lake—or any part of them. These people furnish all equipment—food, sleeping bags, horses and do everything for you. So that if you can sit a horse you can enjoy the trip. And literally sitting a horse is all the riding skill needed as the pace is set by the pack-horses and never exceeds a walk.

Why Not Try?

TO ENCOURAGE professional recreation workers to write not so much on the philosophy of the movement as on the techniques of doing the work, the Society of Recreation Workers of America is sponsoring the Joseph Lee Memorial Prize for Recreation Literature for the three best articles presented by members in good standing in the Society.

The first prize will consist of \$50 and a suitable plaque; the second of \$35; the third of \$15. Awards will be made at the Society's annual meeting to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, during the National Recreation Congress, September 30-October 4, 1940. Final selections will be made by a competent board of three judges after preliminary judging by the Committee on Publications.

Papers, which should be of not more than 2,500 words in length and typewritten on one side of the paper only, should be submitted before August 1st to Wayne C. Sommer, Chairman, Committee on Publications, 2121 East Dauphin Street, Philadelphia. Each manuscript must bear the name, address, position, and organization of the writer in the upper left-hand corner of the first page.

Literature about these trips may be obtained at the local Chamber of Commerce offices and at the forestry offices. The forestry offices also have descriptive folders of all the types of camps and camp sites to be found in the forests, giving distances, methods of getting there, facilities and trips from the different points. These furnish excellent reading around the home fire on a rainy winter night. Half the fun of the trip is the planning of it!

It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

(Continued from page 258)

Shelbourne Falls, Massachusetts, had a contest on what can be done to improve the community. It cost \$25.00 for \$1,000 worth of suggestions. If every recreation worker will send a 25¢ nature idea we will have \$1,000 worth of ideas.

Robinson, champion of the Westfield River Parkway, takes pruning shears and makes pathways into pastures so that tourists can hike to see mountain laurel in all its glory. Some farmers cooperate by putting in turnstyles. Set your pruning shears and turnstiles to work for the year's cause.

"He Will Be There"

HE WILL BE THERE. Only disaster or serious illness could keep him away. He will be there, as he has always been there, a familiar figure, song book held out in front of his slight figure, eye-glasses a quarter the way down his nose, his white walrus mustache concealing his lips, his hands shaking a little as he holds his song book, but his voice lifted by a strong inner spirit in triumph above an aging body. Homer Hatch is the symbol of the Singers' Club and the Singers' Club is the symbol of Homer Hatch. The two have been inseparable companions for almost half a century, going back into the early nineties when Homer Hatch helped to found the singing organization with which he has sung for longer than I have lived. He will be there tonight, as always, when the Singers' Club gathers on the stage at Severance Hall with the famed Australian baritone, John Brownlee, as its soloist, and physical age and the problems of life and business will drop away from Homer Hatch, and in place of them will come the spiritual bread and butter and wine of song which have made his life so rich and full. Homer Hatch is eighty-one years as the physical age of man is reckoned but he has not yet cast his first vote by the spiritual calculation of the song of man. Auditor of W. M. Pattison Supply Co. by day, where he has not missed a day of work in more than thirty years, Homer Hatch is a song bird by night. When you take your seat at Severance Hall tonight to hear the Singers' Club, look at Homer Hatch, and look at him again and again, and as this eighty-one year old man lifts his voice to sing you will be looking upon a man who has had a song in his heart his whole life through for the world, for himself, for his family, for his friends, and you will find it good to look upon Homer Hatch.—From a newspaper in an Ohio city.

A Program of Education Through Recreation

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really important collections of the plants, minerals, fossils, insects, reptiles, birds, mammals and Indian relics of North America. Some of these collections, among them Dr. Mengel's unrivalled collection of 120,000 butterflies representing the Lepidoptera of the world, are of international fame.

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of
Current Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

The American Citizen, March 1940 (formerly *Character and Citizenship*)

"A New Year's Eve Party for Christian Youth" by Theodore H. Kuch

Beach and Pool, March 1940

"Specifications and Recommendations for Underwater and Overhead Lighting of Swimming Pools."

"Duties and Responsibilities of the Aquatic Director" by William Clemenger

Beach and Pool, April 1940

"The Importance of Competent Personnel" by H. W. Craig

"The Promotion of a Swimming Pool" by C. M. Roos

The Camping Magazine, March 1940

"Give Camping Back to the Camper" by L. B. Sharp

"The Counselor Packs Her Duffel with Intangibles" by Katherine Kellet

"Girls on the Firing Line" by Betty Clark

"Insect Life in the Nature Program" by George N. Rysgaard

"The Chinese Had a Name for It!" Description of Top Sticks—a new game.

The Camping Magazine, April 1940

"Pottery Making as a Camp Activity" by Alice Paulaukas and L. R. Whittington

"Streamlining the Treasure Hunt for Large Camps" by C. Frederick Messinger

"Badminton Steps Out of Doors" by Carl H. Jackson and Lester A. Swan

"What the Average Camp Spends" by Ross L. Allen

"Camp Olympics" by Chris G. Chachis

The Camping Magazine, May 1940

"Packing Food for Trips" by Barbara Ellen Joy

"Platter Boats" by Mrs. B. A. Sinn

"Pack-Trip Technique" by Hugh A. Hunter

"A Homemade Pottery Kiln" by L. R. Whittington

Camping World, March 1940

"Economics in Camping" by Robert C. Marshall

"Water Systems for Camp" by Frank A. Kristal

"Singing Better" by Leona Holbrook

"Notes on Waterfront Floats" by Zenon Raabe

The Instructor, April 1940

"Making Garden Equipment" by J. Edward Bond

Journal of Health and Physical Education, March 1940

"Student Recreation on Our College Campuses" by C. D. Giaque

"Dance for Men in the Schools" by Jose Limon

"Softball as I See It" by Vincent Farrell

Journal of Health and Physical Education, April 1940

"Dance and the Theater Arts in the Colleges" by Charlotte MacEwan

"Afterschool Hours Prepare for Afterschool Years" by Gertrude M. Dayton

"Problems in Safety Education" by Ben W. Miller

"Girls and Lariats" by Josephine Betz

"Bowling as Part of the Curriculum" by A. E. Florio

Journal of Health and Physical Education, May 1940

"Health and Safety in Organized Camps" by Barbara Ellen Joy

"Coeducational Social Dance in the University Physical Education Curriculum" by Delta T. Hinkel

"Prevention of Injury in Softball" by Charlotte LaTourette

- The Nation's Schools*, April 1940
"Resurfacing the Playground" by C. L. Crawford
- Parks and Recreation*, March 1940
"Parks and Playfields: Is a Separate or a Joint Administration Desirable?" by H. E. Varga
- Safety Education*, March 1940
"A Safe Place to Play"
- Safety Education*, April 1940
"The Triangle of Bicycle Safety" by Harry Barnicle
- Safety Education*, May 1940
"Fun Without Risk"
"Weed Out the Hazards." Article on school inspection which might well apply to recreation buildings and community centers
- Scholastic Coach*, March 1940
"Schoolboy Catcher in the Making" by James L. Quigley
"Aquatic Program for the School Year" by John Y. Squires
"Baseball Quiz" by Jack Coombs
"Girls' Volleyball Officiating" by Norma M. Leavitt
- Scholastic Coach*, April 1940
"First Practice—The Ground Strokes" by J. Donald Budge
"Outguessing the Man with the Bat" by Charles A. Jamieson
"Competitive Volleyball Plan" by Frank Colucci
- School Activities*, April 1940
"Decorating Your Building for Social Functions" by F. J. Coyte and E. E. Ohlson
- Service Bulletin*, National Section on Women's Athletics of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, March 1940
"Fundamentals of Track and Field for Girls and Women" by Viola Mitchell
- Survey Graphic*, March 1940
"A Gang Goes Uphill" by Webb Waldron

PAMPHLETS

- A Brief Selected List of Books Including New Publications for Recreation Leaders*
Chicago Recreation Library Committee of Council of Social Agencies with cooperation of Work Projects Administration
- Catalog of the Red Cross Radio Script Exchange*. Third edition
Public Information Service, The American National Red Cross, Washington, D. C., March 1940 (revised)
- Community Forests* by Nelson C. Brown
Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., price \$.10
- Dance Calls*. Nebraska Folklore, pamphlet 27, series 3
Nebraska Writers' Project, Lincoln, Neb., 1940
- Educational Radio Script Exchange*. Fourth edition catalogue
Federal Radio Education Committee, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C., 1940, price \$.10
- An Eye for Pictures* by J. Ghislain Lootens
New York World Telegram, 125 Barclay Street, New York City, 1940
- Forums on the Air* by Paul H. Sheats
The Federal Radio Education Committee, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C., price \$.25
- Goal-Hi* by Dr. Forrest C. Allen
The College Press, 1939, price \$1.00. Official rules book on Goal-Hi

Our Tin Can Gardens

(Continued from page 231)

six hours a week. "Seeds Furnished" refers only to those provided by the project. The actual number of varieties included in gardens is much larger. Our seed purchases are planned for beginners and are chosen from the following: Flowers — zinnias, marigolds, portulacas, petunias, sweet alyssum, balsam. Vegetables—radishes (2), lettuce (2), beans (2), carrots, beets, cabbage, summer squash, sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes.

The varying costs as related to the number of gardens for the same years, reflect the fact that each year the size of the average garden has increased, due to the presence of a few large gardens, some singly, some cooperatively cultivated. The commonest garden will always be the twenty-five square feet allotted to young beginners. Practical results for many boys have been immediate jobs for some and, through visits to agricultural schools arranged by us, an awakened ambition in others to secure advanced training.

Camp Fire Girls Learn to See

(Continued from page 236)

lications, as well as others. Seeking help with a shell collection took them to the State Museum, where the custodian was surprised and pleased to find them so eager for information. They decided to make a bird identification chart, and that was where a Camp Fire father took command. The weather man was consulted about clouds as weather prophets. In fact, there were a great many people in that part of New Jersey made more aware of the real service they could give to young people and very much pleased with the interest shown.

As the Guardian who wrote us about this summer's experience says:

"I cannot say what part I liked best—perhaps acquiring knowledge, or the contacts with other people, perhaps working so closely with my own daughter—or attaining a goal, or just being out-of-doors with real friends. But this I know, I am a better Guardian and a happier mother because of this summer's experience. Try it! You may not have any more scientific information to start with than I did, but you'll learn as you go, and I'm sure you will enjoy yourself."

And that, we think, is a challenge to all recreation leaders, volunteer and professional, especially those few who still keep the book of the natural world tight closed because they are afraid to turn its pages.

New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

Introduction to Community Recreation

Prepared for the National Recreation Association by George D. Butler. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. \$3.50.

RECREATION WORKERS and all interested in the movement will welcome this important new book which will prove an encyclopedia of information regarding the recreation movement, particularly in relation to the part played by governmental agencies. There are seven parts: Part I—Recreation—Its Nature, Extent, and Significance; Part II—Leadership; Part III—Areas and Facilities; Part IV—Activities and Programs; Part V—The Operation of Areas and Facilities; Part VI—Program Features and Services; and Part VII—Organization and Administration Problems. There is also a bibliography.

Not only recreation workers, city officials, and all interested in the promotion of recreation in its varied phases will find this 550 page volume valuable. It will serve colleges, universities, and all institutions giving courses in the training of recreation workers as a practical, comprehensive text book.

How to Produce Puppet Plays

By Sue Hastings and Dorcas Ruthenburg. Harper and Brothers, New York. \$1.75.

THE AUTHORS have given step-by-step instructions with clear diagrams showing how to build a stage, make a puppet, publicize the show, and handle all the other details necessary to the successful production of puppet plays. The methods recommended may be followed easily and effectively by the novice and amateur.

Leisure for Living

By Sydney Greenbie. George W. Stewart, New York. \$2.50.

MR. GREENBIE and his wife, Marjorie Barstow Greenbie, have for years been cultivating the arts of leisure both in their life together and in their writing. As Mrs. Greenbie, author of *The Arts of Leisure*, writes in her introduction to her husband's book, "Our conception of the arts of leisure is the product of our joint lives, and whoever writes it, it is a family affair."

This is a delightful book in which Mr. Greenbie weaves his philosophy of life as it relates to our leisure time. Leisure for relaxation, for learning, for enrichment and reflection form his major themes, each elaborated in a number of chapters whose titles lure you into reading them even though you are sure you haven't the time! Here are a few of them: The Importance of Fun; Formula for Living; "Likee Speechee?"; Hobbies and Gadgets; Growing Your Own Home; Meditations for Materialists. Recreation workers should take time to read this book.

The Junior Party Book

By Bernice Wells Carlson. Cokesbury Press, Nashville, Tenn. \$1.50.

THIS BOOK, containing suggestions for twenty-four parties, has been written to stimulate the giving of simpler, easier parties—parties that will be fun for everyone, including the parents of the young host or hostess, and also the parents of the children attending. The games and other suggestions have been tested and found to be practical.

American Recreation Series

Edited by Federal Writers' Project, WPA. Bacon and Wieck, Inc., 118 East 28th Street, New York, Publisher and sole distributor. Each \$1.10.

IN A YEAR when the slogan "See America" takes on a new meaning and travel in the United States is bound to be greatly increased, the publication of this series of recreation guides is particularly timely. The series consists of 52 booklets, paper bound, with an unusually attractive pictorial cover—one for each state and one for Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. There are also a few guides of individual cities such as New York City. Each booklet contains much useful information, such as a calendar of events for each state, population, places of historic interest, sports, recreational areas, tours, a map, and road travel information. Discounts are offered on quantity purchases.

Junior Boat Builder

By H. H. Gilmore. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.25.

A FEW MATERIALS and some simple tools are all the equipment needed for the boy who would be a carpenter and a sailor at the same time, for so clear are the directions given in this book and so helpful the diagrams that any boy should be able to make his own fleet. There are directions for making amateur cruisers, yachts, river boats, freighters, and sailboats, and there are directions, too, for such marine equipment as lighthouses, buoys, piers, and wharfs for the fleet.

Create Something

By Felix Payant. Design Publishing Company, Columbus, Ohio. \$2.50.

"WE ARE NEVER as happy as when we are creating something." This is the theme around which the author has developed his subject matter. And it has been his purpose to present his material on creative arts in such a way as to make it understandable to the beginner without sacrificing its value to the advanced student or teacher. Included is information on line and chalk drawings, block printing, painting, mural painting, lettering, poster making, textiles, leather tooling, pottery, modeling,

puppetry, mask making, paper construction, wood carving, toy making, metal craft, photography, and motion pictures. Two hundred illustrations have been included to give clarity to the various sections of the text.

Civil Service in Public Welfare.

By Alice Campbell Klein. Russell Sage Foundation, New York. \$2.25.

A contribution of real value has been made in this manual coming as it does at a time when in increasing numbers social workers are entering the public welfare field. The civil service situation is a varying one, as Mrs. Klein points out, and one requiring more careful study and consideration than it has received up to the present time. The factual material needed for such a study is presented in this volume. Part One, devoted to Civil Service: Its Functions and Procedures, is intended as a primer of civil service history and practices. Part Two, Where Social Work and Merit Systems Meet—considers civil service procedures from the point of view of the effect on public welfare and necessarily deals with some controversial factors. The attempt throughout, however, is to present opposing points of view with arguments for both sides.

Civil Service in Public Welfare is an important book which merits careful study on the part of workers both in the private and public field.

Tricks Any Boy Can Do.

By Joseph Leeming. D. Appleton-Century Company, New York. \$2.00.

There are directions for performing nearly two hundred tricks in this book designed for amateur magicians. All of them are so simple that in no time at all the reader can become adept at mystifying his friends. A great variety of tricks is offered—tricks with cards, with coins, matches and match boxes, balls, handkerchiefs, rings, and string; mind reading and spirit tricks; tricks with numbers, and many others.

The Handy Play Party Book. Singing Games and Folk Songs.

Cooperative Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio. \$1.00.

The Cooperative Recreation Service has adopted a very attractive and practical way of binding its Kits. This particular booklet contains singing games and folk songs usable by amateurs. With this binding the book stays open on the piano, and its form and shape make it easy to carry in the pocket. The booklet contains European Singing Games, American Singing Games, Southern Singing Games, and Selected Folk Songs.

Face the Footlights!

By E. B. (Zeke) Colvan. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York. \$3.00.

This book has been written not only for actors and those who would be actors, but for directors, coaches, and all interested in the theater. Its purpose is to tell the young actor not only what to do, but how and why. It analyzes each element in acting and shows its relative importance. A full set of exercises is included to assist in the development of these elements.

Directory of Youth Organizations.

Compiled by Mary Rodgers Lindsay and Simon Uhrman. National Youth Administration for New York City, 265 West 14th Street, New York.

Since 1937 the Research Department of the NYA of New York City has conducted continuous research on youth organizations, and directories were issued in 1937. The enlarged 1940 edition has complete listings for 216 organizations and partial listings for 65, making a total of 281, more than twice as many as appeared in the 1937

edition. The purpose has been to include all youth organizations nation-wide in scope, and the city-wide organizations in New York City.

The National Youth Administration has performed a valuable service in compiling information on existing organizations for youth.

Community Schools in Action.

By Elsie Ripley Clapp. The Viking Press, New York. \$3.75.

"The work which is described here," says the author, "is itself a tribute to John Dewey whose philosophy and vision of the school as a social institution prompted our efforts to create a community school and to participate in community education." Dr. Dewey, in his foreword, points to the community schools which Miss Clapp describes as proof of what the community can do for schools when the latter are actually centers of community life and how communities develop themselves by means of schools which are the centers of their own life.

Miss Clapp describes in detail the development and the work of the Roger Clark Ballard Memorial School, a rural school in Kentucky, and schools in Arthurdale, West Virginia. She emphasizes the recreational and cultural resources and opportunities and the influence of these schools on the life of their community.

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